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G. BAILEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR; JOHN G. WHITTIER, CORRESPONDING EDITOR.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

For the National Era.

A BROTHER'S RECOLLECTION OF AN ONLY SISTER.

BY MARY IRVING.

CHAP. 1.

I had been "out West" six years. Boy though I was, when my father failed, I could not separate his honor from my own; and the hopelessness and anguish of his bankruptcy benumbed, for a little while, my own naturally buoyant spirit. I had hitherto been bound up in my books; school and home had been all the world to me. And the two were linked closely together by the tender, judicious mother-love that kept watch over my progress in learning, sympathized with me at every step, and assisted me through every labyrinth. My heart had always been an open page to that mother. I cannot say that I *confided* every thought to her, but rather that she read each feeling, without the need of words to disclose it. She was a frail, beautiful creature, taking a chill from every cloud that passed over her; too morbidly sensitive to be happy continually; but her happiest moments were given to me—her youngest, merriest, and best-beloved boy.

Her *youngest*, I have said. She had another son—my grave, thoughtful, precociously-mature brother Eben. Perhaps she would have expended a portion of her overflowing sympathy upon him, if he had seemed to need it. But his was a silent, self-reliant character; he stood, even in the nursery, like a rock, moved neither by frowns nor caresses from his calm, cheerful, straight-forward way. As he grew older, integrity seemed the very essence of his spirit. His keenness of penetration, and excellent judgment, made him an invaluable aid to our dear father, whose affairs were already becoming involved in entanglement. The catastrophe was averted, for several years, by the prudence and indefatigable energy of poor Eben, then scarcely out of boyhood. But the intellect sapped the slender frame that sustained it, being taxed too heavily. Repeated attacks of hemorrhage obliged him to leave the counting-room, and finally to confine himself to his own chamber; and, from that time, affairs went down hill, with accelerated velocity.

But I, meanwhile, realized nothing of all this. I was bending every energy to the last year's studies of my academical course, having formed bright plans for college life, upon which I hoped to enter in a few months. "Be first, or nothing!" had been the motto, given by my mother's lips, that had guided my career as a school-boy. Fortunately, possessing firm health and quick powers, I suffered nothing from that motto; so many have I since seen sacrificed to it.

In attending upon Eben, and superintending my studies, compositions, &c., my mother found so full employment as left her little time to interpret my father's increasingly-clouded brow. He was moody, petulant; he who had always been the soul of gentleness and generosity; whose very *yieldingness* (if I may coin an ungraceful word) was the weakness of his character. She wept when he turned, as she thought, coldly and irritably from the chamber of his sick son; little thinking how, in comparison with the anguish of suspense that was hourly racking his nerves, the calm illness of Eben seemed a trifle.

That brother never complained, but grew daily more gentle, nearer to our hearts and sympathies, though still his own silent self. For a time, he asked occasionally to inspect the ledgers, and they were brought to him. But as he was invariably much worse after such inspection, my mother—attributing his illness to exercise of his mind in reckoning—prevailed upon his physician to forbid him the sight of accounts. Eben smiled sadly, but submitted. We little knew what he foresaw through the vista of those columns.

The crash came at last! It was the very day of the exhibition at —— street Academy. I had taken the valedictory—rightly, if ever a boy won it by working for it—and every word of my oration had been weighed in the balance of an ambitious mother's critical taste. How could it fail to merit plaudits? Ah! the fame of *school-days* is something far more pulse-stirring than the applause of half a world, to a heart grown old in the knowledge of that world.

I went from that platform with a burning cheek and throbbing breast, to meet her whose eye had been on me to inspire me through the whole, and to lay my honors before her. She grasped my hand, and looked unutterable dreams of hope for my future, from her tearful eyes.

"My boy! make me *always* thus proud of you!" had been her whisper, as she placed her hand in my arm, to be conducted home. All the way thither we had but one thought in common—not a word was spoken. I left her at the door, to return and bid a schoolmate good bye.

When I bounded to the door again, I was startled by the look of the Irish maid who opened it. My first thought was of Eben, whose absence from the scene of my triumph had been its only alloy.

"What! is brother worse?" I asked, hurriedly.

"Niver a bit, bless him! it's the throuble, saints help us!"

"What trouble?" I demanded; but seeing that the creature was bewildered, I pushed by her, and burst into the drawing-room. There lay my father on a couch, hands and face buried from sight. Beside him knelt my mother, on the carpet, with bonnet and shawl crushed beneath her, wringing her gloved hands in distress, yet struggling evidently to repress her feelings, and to give some comfort to the crushed spirit at her side.

"Hush, Ralph!" she whispered, nervously, as I swung open the wide doors; "your father!"

"Is he sick?" I inquired, quickly.

"Oh, no! no! but"——

"Boy!" spoke my father, hoarsely, uplifting his face for an instant, and darting a look of indescribable agony through the matted hair that fell over his eyes. "Boy, *we are beggared!* Go!"

I stood as a stone. My mother waved her hand in distressed entreaty, and I went out.

It was so. The firm of Lincoln & Co. had fallen, shaking the city in its crash. "A wretched failure," said the papers of the next day, "no less startling than distressing in its consequences to rich and poor." Every person understands the confusion, debt, and disgrace, of a failure stigmatized as "wretched."

I went, scarcely knowing why, to the room of Eben. He sat, apparently as calm as ever, leaning his head on his hand, supported by the arm of his great chair. But as he withdrew the handkerchief he had been holding to his mouth, I sprung to his side, in alarm. Great drops of fresh blood rolled down upon his snowy linen. I assisted him to the bed, and would have rung for aid, but he restrained me, and motioned to a cordial, which I gave him. He broke the silence of the few following moments by a deep whisper—

"Ralph! I am glad it has come!"

"Don't talk; indeed, brother, you must not."

"I must, Ralph; I am going to die!"

"Eben, brother! no, indeed! You have had these attacks often."

"And for that reason can bear no more, my brother. Heaven gave me a strong frame, but it has borne its utmost; and this crisis has shaken"——

He drew a fresh handkerchief across his lips, and paused. "Poor father! *poor* mother!" This was rather groaned than spoken.

"Do not think about them—keep calm. Mother bears it better than I should have expected. She is trying to comfort father.

"Yes, she may bear the prospect of change; but the *reality* of poverty—she who has never known it—so excitable, so feeble, what will it be to her! And our father! broken, crushed, under a mountain of debts that he can never throw off, unaided. Oh! if strength was in these arms again! But it can never be!"

And he dropped his thin hands hopelessly, yet with resignation.

"Tell me what *I* can do, brother!" I exclaimed, resolutely.

A light dawned in his clear gray eyes, as he turned upon me.

"*Will* you do what you can, Ralph?" he asked, earnestly.

"May Heaven hear and help me, as I promise!" I returned, solemnly.

"Do you comprehend what that promise involves, dear boy—the giving up of your cherished pursuits, your plans for life?"

"If the sacrifice wrench my heart-strings, Eben, it shall be made for our parents, to whom I owe all. Tell me what to do!"

Eben lay in silent meditation for minutes. At last he began:

"What *I* would have done, Ralph, had this failure happened three years ago, and left me in the health you enjoy, with the wisdom I have since sadly gained, I will unfold to you; and it may in some degree guide your course.

"I could not have given myself more entirely than I have already done to the business which is now at an end. But I would not have *wasted* so much."

I pressed his hand, and my eyes filled, but his own were clear, and glazed with brightness.

"Toil of day and night in the counting-house, bending and reckoning, reckoning and bending, from boyhood, have brought my labors to an early close, brother. *Your* fate must not be like mine! I ought to have gone West. I would have done it, if I could. I would have exerted muscle and sinew, no less than brain. I would have strengthened my physical being, while I was giving its energies, as well as those of my mind, to the task before me. Our father will be a fettered man, until he is once more free from debt. I know him well—better than any other, and I know he will never have energy enough to help himself, or rise to his former standing, until he feels that this stain of dishonor is effaced, until these debts are all honorably paid. Our mother, she *must* know *some* years of privation; let it be your care to provide her declining years with a home once more comfortable. I leave this sacred trust in your young hands, Ralph! God strengthen and keep you!"

"I accept it, brother, in His strength!" and I knelt by the bed of Eben.

That night, a deeper gloom than even the despair of bankruptcy fell upon our stricken household. The shadow that can only be lifted in Eternity, lay on that "upper chamber." The heart that had crowded a lifetime into nineteen years, had ceased to beat, and I kept watch beside it!

I had lived years in that day. I was no longer a boy! Dismantling of that bereaved home, wreck of boyhood associations, sacrilege upon all that was holy in the memories of Life and Death beneath that roof—why should I dwell upon these, comprised in the dismal sack of all things, preceding the "auction sale?" I took my poor weeping mother from the midst, to a quiet but humble country home. My father moved, like one in a dream, amid the wreck of his household.

In a week, I was on my way westward.

Six years; so I began this chapter. Six years of struggle and success, so far as the great aim for which I toiled was concerned; six years of privation and endurance, as regarded my own being, bodily and mentally.

But what mattered that? I was of the age to be hopeful, and of the age, too, when stern self control does more to discipline the character, and temper it rightly for the great warfare of life, than a seven—yes, or *seventy*—years' university course of *mere* book-study.

"In two years more," I said to myself, "I shall have reached my goal; I shall have wiped aspersion from my father's name, and shall see him once more at ease, sweeter than the luxury of the olden years to his harassed spirit. Then—for *society* again—for the development and training of this *heart*, which has laid so long dormant in its living casket—and for you, my mother!"

A vague uneasiness always coupled itself with my memory of that dear parent. She was the only one to give me any detailed news of the world I had left, for my father's far-between missives were generally mere business despatches. For the first years, her long sympathising letters warmed and cheered me, though the melancholy spirit that pervaded them like an atmosphere had its saddening influence.

The birth of a little sister, announced to me within the first year of my exile, seemed to have a soothing effect upon my mother's ruffled mind, though a long illness subsequent to it reduced her to a very feeble state of health. Gradually, however, her letters had become less frequent and less satisfying. They were either totally sad, or tinctured with a carelessness and levity that were unlike anything I had ever seen in my mother. But I attributed all her caprices, as I had long done, to the account of certain events of her younger years, of which I had gathered vague hints. My poor mother had married the man she did *not* love, and terribly did her outraged heart avenge itself upon the will that had bowed too weakly to circumstance and solicitation.

How was I startled one evening, on reaching the nearest post office, twenty miles from the log cabin I then was occupying, to receive a letter in a strange hand, bearing the name of my parents' home imprinted upon it. I tore it open, and read, in the hand of the village pastor—

"*Mr. Ralph Lincoln:*

"DEAR SIR: I grieve to state that your esteemed father lies very ill of typhus fever. His recovery is considered uncertain. If circumstances render the journey practicable for you, I would advise you to come immediately to this place, not merely for his sake, but for that of your mother, whose mind is, to say the least, in an exceedingly disturbed state. Accept the sincere sympathy and prayers of your friend,

"———."

My father dying! My mother—I dared not fancy *what* calamity had fallen upon *her* head! But they needed me; that was enough! I packed my portmanteau, and hurried Eastward with the speed of steam wheels.

Once more on the New England hills, those hills of which I had dreamed half the nights since I had left them; but their blue outlines only fell like shadows upon my heart. I had reached the summit of the last one within my journey. Below me lay the village, garlanded with green, and girt with a silvery riband—a river, not less beautiful that it is too small for the notice of map-makers.

There stood the low, stone-colored cottage my earnings had helped to buy for the dear ones within it; there gleamed the red corner of the store where my dispirited father had dragged out the last few years, making small gains. I leaned back in the corner of the coach, and strove to still my heart's beating.

The cottage was a little way out of the village. I was set down at its white gate. A woman passing by, with a blue 'kerchief on her head, and a bunch of celery on her arm, leaned over the gate, and watched me silently, but curiously, as I walked to the house.

A little creature in a sky-blue frock, with a tangled head glorified in the sunshine, glided across the gallery just before I stepped upon it. Her hands were full of blue forget-me-nots and white rosebuds. She turned her head quickly at my step, but hurried on. All was silent. My sick heart stood still.

The opening of a side door was a relief to me; but it was not my mother who appeared. A strange, but sweet-voiced lady, whom I afterwards knew as the wife of the pastor who had written me, advanced, and in a low tone, gave me a quiet welcome—divining my connection with the household, by my anxious face.

"My father?" I dared not ask a question. She paused solemnly. "'It is well' with him!" was her emphatic reply.

I turned from her abruptly, and walked to a supporting pillar. Struggling for outward composure, I attempted to inquire, "When did—when was?"—I could not speak the cruel words.

"He died the night before last, at half-past eleven o'clock. His funeral was appointed at four o'clock this afternoon, as we found it impossible to wait any longer for your arrival, on account of"——

She hesitated, and I comprehended the sickening reality—the fulfilment of the curse that flesh is heir to, whenever the chrysalis spirit hath taken wings and soared.

"So little time?" I faltered, for it was already past three, and I turned toward the room which I instinctively felt to be the "chamber of death."

A vacant-faced watcher arose from her seat beside a white-sheeted bed, and, at a sign from her who had followed me to the door, glided on tip-toe from the room, and left me alone with the dead.

My father!—my father! Was it *thus* I looked on thy face again? That whitened head, that Care had bleached more than Time—it was scarcely frosted when I left! Those skeleton-like hands, crossed so piteously over the sunken chest! But the face! ah! it was not like my father's! Death had triumphed over life in its lineaments; and I veiled it, with a trembling hand.

Over the pulseless heart lay the flowers I had seen in the child's hands. Had she been there to face this fearful mystery?

How long I had sat, with bowed head, I know not, when a hand was laid lightly on my shoulder, and the minister's wife spoke my name in kind but firm accents.

"I would not intrude upon you, Mr. Lincoln, but the people will soon assemble, and the bearers are waiting to place the body in the coffin."

I started up with a shudder, gave one quick look, and followed her. "My mother?" I asked, as I passed into the hall.

"Will you see her before the funeral services? I fear it will agitate you too much, if—you know, however, it is probable, the sad state of her mind."

"I must see her, at all events," I replied; and with an indefinable foreboding at my heart, I turned toward her room.

The window was thrown open toward the garden; and she sat by it in a cushioned chair, rocking listlessly, and rolling her eyes with a vacant air, that fell upon my heart like a millstone. But I sprung forward to arouse her.

"Mother! Mother!" I almost gasped. She turned her eyes without moving her head, or slacking the pace of her rocking-chair.

"Oh! I thought it was Lulie, little Lulie!" she murmured, as though dreaming.

Have the years changed me so much, that my mother does not know me? thought I. Dropping on one knee beside her chair, I caught her hand in both mine, and looked into her face as I had done in childhood and boyhood.

"Mother, you have not forgotten your Ralph!"

The unmeaning glance of those eyes will live in my heart while it beats! No word of welcome—of sympathy—not one look of the *mother* there!

"Ralph—oh, yes; is *school* out?" she said, drawing away her hand, and passing it over her eye-brows with a distressed look. "It is late, and I have not mended your father's overcoat yet. I told Lulie to bring me a spool of black silk, but she is so long coming—and my head aches so! Go and play with Eben, Ralph—there's a good boy!"

I could bear no more! My brain seemed on fire, and my heart frozen to ice! I sprang from my kneeling posture, and went from the room. I turned the latch of another apartment—it was empty; and flinging back the door, I shut myself up with my great anguish.

I fell on my knees, but instantly started up, shivering. My soul was shaken from its trust in the goodness of God. I could not pray! I could not weep. I could only sit, crushing my heart with my folded arms, while shudder after shudder shook almost even my reason from its throne.

"What have I lived for? what have I toiled for? what is there to live for?" A hollow, mocking laugh, that startled myself, burst from my cold lips as these bitter queries came up. The door creaked on its hinges. I turned a frenzied glance, to forbid the entrance of any human being; but that glance melted in an instant, and a tide of new thoughts and emotions rushed up to contend with the mountain waves of Despair.

I need not tell you *who* came in, with little white pinafore held timidly up by one corner, and eyes full of Heaven's loving trust, that half recoiled when she met my first strange, wild glance. I had forgotten the *only* blessing spared in the wreck of home.

I did not speak; I dropped my arms and looked at her with the searching gaze of the lost mariner, who thinks he sees the first faint star in a clouded heaven. She stole noiselessly up to me, her childish brow lifted, and her lips trembling. "Brother Ralph!" she whispered, and then, as though the effort had been too great for her, she dropped her little head on my knees, and burst into crying.

I caught her to my heart, and the cherub touch melted its icy band! Hot, heavy tears, such as the strong man weeps, rained on her worse than orphan head. I drew her closer—closer—until, pained by the convulsive pressure, she looked up in baby wonderment. Why I was weeping she could not comprehend, but she lifted her apron to wipe my cheeks. Then, seeing them again deluged, she tried the sweet balm of childish love.

"*I love you,* brother Ralph!" she said, in a note like the tenderest trill of sweetest bird, and put her little arms around my neck, laying her soft cheek to mine.

"Little sister!" I strove to speak, but only sobbed, "Thank God! I have *something* left to live for!"

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

THE FISHERY QUESTION.—The Barnstable (Massachusetts) *Patriot* says that it has "reliable advices from Washington, that the terms of a treaty are definitely determined upon, and that the final action in the matter will soon be accomplished;" and it has also learned from a member of Congress from Massachusetts, who represents a large fishing interest, that he has the assurance from the able and accomplished Secretary of State, that no right heretofore ceded to us in respect to the registry of vessels, or the fisheries, or other commercial privileges, will be sacrificed. This is all very satisfactory, if accurate.

SMITH O'BRIEN.—It appears that this person, also, has effected his escape from Melbourne, and we are gratified to be assured that no parol of honor has been thereby forfeited. We suspect, however, that the British Government has not been reluctant to part with the custody of these gentlemen on such terms as will hereafter prevent their returning to their native home.

THE "PEARL."—The *Boston Commonwealth* of the 29th ult. says that Captain Drayton, of Pearl memory, left that city recently, doubtless never to return, as his constitution was wholly broken down by his imprisonment; and since his liberation, his little remaining health and strength have been continually wasting. He went to Boston a few weeks since, hoping to spend some time in Massachusetts, in travelling, and selling his narrative; but from the severity of the weather, or other causes, his health declined, and he became so feeble as seldom to leave the house, and finally to lose all hope of ever being essentially better, though, from the nature of his disease, he may perhaps live a year or two. *He is entirely destitute!* and his friends in that city, desiring that he shall have every comfort so long as he may need it, have proposed to raise a few hundred dollars for his relief.

For the National Era.

THE HASHISH.*

BY JOHN G. WHITTIER.

Of all the Orient lands can vaunt
Of marvels, with our own competing,
The strangest is the Hashish plant,
And what will follow on its eating.

What visions to the taster rise,
Of Dervish or of Almeh dances,
Of Eblis, or of Paradise,
Set all aglow with Houri glances.

The Mollah and the Christian dog
Clap the same pipe beneath their noses;
The Muezzin climbs the synagogue,
The Rabbi shakes his beard at Moses!

The Arab by his desert well
Sits choosing from some Caliph's daughters,
And hears his single camel's bell
Sound welcome to his regal quarters.

The Koran-reader makes complaint
Of Shitan dancing on and off it;
The robber offers alms; the saint
Drinks tokay and blasphemes the Prophet.

Such scenes that Eastern plant awakes,
But we have one ordained to beat it—
The Hashish of the West, that makes
Or fools, or knaves, of all who eat it.

It makes the merchant class, with ware
And stock in trade, his fellow sinners;
And factory lords, with equal care,
Regard their spindles and their spinners.

The preacher eats, and straight appears
His Bible in a new translation;
Its angels, negro-overseers,
And Heaven itself a snug plantation.

For seraph songs he takes the bark
And bay of blood-hounds northward setting;
The planter for a patriarch,
With servants of his own begetting.

The noisiest Democrat, with ease,
It turns to Slavery's parish beadle;
The shrewdest statesman eats, and sees
Due southward point the polar needle!

The man of peace, about whose dreams
The sweet millennial angels cluster,
Tastes the mad weed, and plots and schemes
A noisy Cuban filibuster!

The Judge partakes, and sits ere long
Upon his bench a railing blackguard,
Decides, off-hand, that right is wrong,
And reads the ten commandments backward!

Oh, potent plant! so rare a taste
Has never Turk or Gentoo gotten;
The hempen Hashish of the East
Is powerless to our Western Cotton!

* A preparation of the *Cannabis Indica*, or Indian hemp, under the name of *Hashish*, or *Haschisch*, is famous throughout the Eastern world for its singular narcotic and intoxicating qualities, producing an agreeable hallucination, or *fantasia*, and disposing the eater to all kinds of exaggeration and extravagance. The effect of the *cotton plant*, mental, moral, religious, and political, upon the people of the United States, would form a proper subject for a medico-philosophical essay like that of M. Morceau's "*Du Haschisch et de l'Aliénation Mentale.*"

"Cotton!" said a distinguished speaker in Congress, some years ago—"Cotton! one would think, from the manner in which gentlemen speak of cotton, that all their conceptions of good were in that one word, cotton; that the destinies of this great nation were bound up in cotton; that the very thread of our fate, which the Parcæ are spinning for us is, of cotton."
Speech of Hon R. C. Winthrop.

For the National Era.

A REVERIE.

"Woman's Rights! Woman's Rights!"—Sounding words!—"great swelling words of vanity," sometimes—echoing words now, at every point, in every tone—croaked in ambitious *crescendo* by the frog who would be an ox—hissed sharply, through scorn-set teeth, (masculine, of course,) or enveloped in not unmusical laughter by the contented blind.

Was it a special wonder that, with the day's din in my ears, the day's paper before my eyes, and the day's care chafing me wearily, I fell pondering whether I had a right to anything? Or that, musing, melted into that *seance*, in whose magnetic triumph over time and space the procession of ages walks upon a breath—and that in a dream, which was not all a dream, the floating tones took shape and history?

I got a brush from the brief skirts of a damsel, who was climbing above my head, to take up a "Bible position," and I saw her bootees set their sharp heels straight through Saint Paul; a fierce woman in spectacles threw her blue lights over my idle figure, and passed me with a scornful snuff; hopelessly little ladies whisked by me, on stilts; fearfully tall ladies strode over me by native propulsion; one poor little wiry body shrieked the common cry with a voice like a paper of pins; foot-sore women moaned it, as they sat down by the roadside, half way up the hill; sorrowful women groaned it, under heavy burdens; half-naked figures, toiling with skinny fingers over rich vestments, dared not stop to utter it; miserable crowds—pressing aimlessly against each other, the hurry in their faces sharply at war with their slow, crowding footsteps, sent up the words, in a starved wail pitiful to hear; from lonely figures, standing on blackened hearthstones, they dropped, like clods upon a coffin; wild armies turned them to fierce battle-cry; and hunger, grown to madness, wrought all forms of horror in their sacred name; while, in far, dim back-ground to all this uproar, "inarticulate masses" seemed to shape their claim, in slow, dismal pantomime, against a shaded sky.

Now, in the wide dream-light, I could see that, through all the ringing changes of the "Woman's Call," from base to top-stone of the living pyramid, it was from each—even from those who garnished their clamors with rhetoric and explanation—less the text of an argument, than the key-note of a single life; and my mazed mind went groping for the abstract right.

Once I thought a glint of its "silver lining" fell on me, from a cloudy corner, where weak women worked, in still patience, against want, neglect, abuse—wearing ever thinner and paler—while more and more their faces shone, as the face of an angel, and their quiet lips opened to the words, "counted worthy to suffer." Yes—the right to endure—that was it; the right, through faith and patience, to draw nearer, year by year, to the great Captain of our salvation.

None gainsaid my triumphant solution, yet the fairly conceded right was not widely claimed.

But a hearty matron near me was drawing a different inference from the same premises, calling cheerfully—a-top a pile of overturned cradles and bread-troughs, her rickety rostrum—in this wise: "Fellow-sisters! I see what all this fuss is about. You want better husbands and better brothers—to make better homes. You've a right to them. But you can't straighten the sticks ready grown and twisted. You must shape the limber twigs; let's go home and do it!"

A fat baby hand tore the paper screen from my day-dream—the tyrant fingers sundering the Women from their Rights—and, through the rift, heaven-blue eyes, and six very new teeth, flashed a laugh into my face, while a pure baby voice gave me greeting as fresh as if "mamma" were the very newest discovery in language. It was all *Right* in a minute. Who but I, in all the world, had a claim to the little word from the lips that made it my music? A graver name, from older lips, was mine too; and lifting the special pleader to his place of right, and rubbing my eyes—which overflowed a little—I woke to a long train of rights, whose deeper value has no representative in the world's reckoning; free gifts, but by deed eternal.

Pity 'tis, dear public, you can have no list of them; but the recording ink, is it not on the carpet!—shed untimely by that same little inalienable, whose plump fingers have a quicker turn for *belles-lettres*, than his dreaming elders can overtake.

CONGRESS.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

Senate, January 3, 1854.

Messrs. Butler, Houston, and Geyer, appeared to-day.

Mr. Seward said he desired to call the attention of the Senate to a question of privilege. He said Senators must have seen, during the past week, a gentleman from the State of Vermont occupying a seat in the Senate. While it would afford the greatest pleasure to them all to have that gentleman in the Senate as a representative from Vermont, still there was connected with it a question of his right to do so. The circumstances were known to all, and were somewhat peculiar; indeed, it was said they were new and singular. The facts were understood as follows: During the recess of the Legislature of Vermont, the Hon. S. S. Phelps was appointed by the Governor of that State, to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr. Upham, who belonged to that class of Senators whose terms expire on the 4th of March, 1855. Under this appointment Mr. Phelps appeared at the last session of the Senate, and was sworn as a Senator from Vermont to fill the vacancy. Since that time, it is understood that the Legislature of Vermont have been in session, and have adjourned *sine die* without filling the vacancy. The question now is, whether Mr. Phelps, under these circumstances, is entitled to fill the vacancy under the temporary appointment of the Governor. After consultation with Senators and with the gentleman himself, and as the question had to be raised by some one, it was determined that it should be done by him, (Mr. S)

He offered a resolution, reciting the facts of the case, and concluding with a declaration that the Hon. S. S. Phelps is entitled to retain his seat as a Senator from Vermont. He moved that the resolution be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The resolution was laid over.

Mr. Seward and Mr. Pettit each presented numerous petitions, praying that the Government would extend its aid to the construction of a ship canal around the Falls of Niagara. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. Seward presented the memorial of Joseph L. Smith, praying that Congress would direct that the public documents printed by order of Congress be distributed among the several common schools in the United States.

Mr. Bright gave notice of a bill to establish a board of accounts for the examination of all claims against the Government of the United States.

Mr. Brodhead introduced a bill to prohibit the counterfeiting of the coin of the United States, and to punish the passing of counterfeit coin. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

On motion by Mr. Fitzpatrick, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill for the relief of the legal representatives of Joshua Kennedy, deceased; and it was read a third time and passed.

On motion by Mr. Pettit, the bill for the relief of Victor Morass was taken up and passed.

On motion by Mr. Chase, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the motion to reconsider the vote by which the bill for the relief of the legal representatives of Major Caleb Swan, deceased, was passed. The vote was reconsidered, and the bill, being slightly amended, was then read a third time and passed.

Mr. Gwin introduced a bill granting land to the State of California, to aid in the construction of a railroad therein between San Francisco, San José, Benicia, and other places in that State.

Mr. Weller introduced a bill to provide for the transportation of the United States mail in steamships between San Francisco, *via* the Sandwich Islands, to China. Referred to the Committee on Post Offices and Post Roads.

On motion by Mr. Chase, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill to divide the State of Ohio into two Judicial Districts.

Mr. Chase said he was not aware that there had been any recent action on the subject by the Legislature; nor did he know what the action of the Legislature had been, if any. He pointed out the great necessity for a division of the State into two Judicial Districts, and the great trouble and injury caused by the difficulties in getting witnesses from distant parts of the State to the one place in the interior where the court was now held. A recent case had demonstrated the necessity for this division. This bill met the approval of both Senators from Ohio, and also of a majority of the delegation from that State in the House.

After some further debate, the motion to refer was agreed to.

Mr. Shields introduced a bill to divide the State of Illinois into two judicial districts; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, submitted a resolution of inquiry relating to a change in the plan of the Capitol extension.

The bill to suppress the circulation of small notes in the District of Columbia was taken up and amended, so as to allow it to go into effect on the first of November next; read a third time and passed.

Mr. Fish introduced a bill to authorize the business of banking in the District of Columbia, and regulate the issuing and circulation of notes as money.

A message was received from the President of the United States, transmitting, in reply to a resolution of the Senate, certain correspondence relating to the British Protectorate at the Mosquito coast, and other matters relating to the treaty of Washington (Clayton and Bulwer treaty) of 1850.

Mr. Cass gave notice that when the papers were printed, he would address the Senate on the subjects referred to by them.

After an Executive session, the Senate adjourned.

House of Representatives, Jan. 3, 1854.

There was a full attendance of members this morning.

At 12 o'clock the Speaker called the House to order. After prayer by the Chaplain of the Senate, and the reading of the Journal,

The Speaker called upon the committees for reports, when

Mr. Aiken, from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill to change the name of the American-built brig John Duncan, which was read three times and passed.

Several private bills were presented and referred.

Mr. Bissell, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the joint resolution of thanks to Major General Wool, and asked that it be put on its passage, which was agreed to.

Whereupon, Mr. Giddings opposed the bill, on the ground that many officers and soldiers merited such commendation; that injustice would be done by the distinction conferred, and that the precedent would be injurious.

Mr. Bissell replied by affirming the cause of Mr. Giddings's opposition to be, that General Wool had gallantly served his whole country. The precedent had been established in the case of other officers, and Gen. Wool had heretofore been slighted. He had served under General Wool, and knew his worth. He concluded by moving the previous question, which prevailed, when the resolution was read three times and passed.

Mr. Henn, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported back the bill for the relief of the purchasers and locaters of swamp and overflowed lands, which was read twice, and committed to the Committee of the Whole.

Mr. Stanton, of Tennessee, reported a resolution ordering the publication of 10,000 copies of the Report of the Coast Survey, which passed.

The House then proceeded to the consideration of the resolution heretofore reported by Mr. Ingersoll, requesting the President to communicate to the House any correspondence between this Government and Spain, relating to the imprisonment of Captain Thadeus Stevens and his officers and crew in 1850, which was passed.

Mr. McDonald's bill, calling for information respecting the cost of the steamers of the United States navy, was taken up and passed.

Mr. Bennett's bill, granting public lands to the States for the purpose of education and internal improvements, was taken up, the question being on the motion of Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, to lay it on the table.

At the request of Mr. McMullen, the motion was withdrawn, when the question recurred on the motion to refer the bill to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. McMullen moved that it be referred with instructions, modified at the request of Mr. Clingman, to inquire into the expediency of appropriating all the proceeds of the sales of the lands to the support and increase of the navy.

Mr. Bennett discussed the general subject, and could not conjecture why the benefits of the public lands have always accrued to the new States. He desired, by his bill, to confer benefits on all.

Mr. Wentworth, of Illinois, moved that the whole subject be laid on the table, which motion was decided in the negative—ayes 62, nays 90.

The motion of Mr. McMullen was rejected, and the bill was referred to the Committee on Public Lands.

Mr. Cutting submitted a preamble and resolution relating to the correspondence of the Secretary of the Treasury and Greene C. Bronson, late Collector of the port of New York, requesting a copy of the published correspondence, and any other letters, between the parties, as preliminary to an investigation into the truth of the charges against the Collector. This resolution lies over under the rule.

On motion of Mr. Chandler, it was resolved that a Select Committee be instructed to inquire into the expediency of withdrawing from the Treasury of the United States the Smithsonian fund, and investing the same in sound stocks.

Mr. Bridges moved a resolution, that the Committee on Military Affairs inquire into the expediency of establishing a national foundry and armory at Allentown, county of Lehigh, Pennsylvania; which lies over.

So also does a resolution proposed by Mr. Florence, that the Committee of Ways and Means inquire into the expediency of suspending the preparation for as much of the building of the assay office in the city of New York as provides for a refining establishment in connection with said assay office, and report by bill or otherwise.

On motion by Mr. Millson, it was resolved that the Committee on Private Land Claims inquire into the expediency of further extending the time for satisfying the claims for bounty lands for military services in the war of 1812, and that they report by bill or otherwise.

On motion of Mr. Kidwell, it was resolved, that the Committee on Commerce inquire into the expediency of reporting a bill for the construction of a custom-house in Wheeling, Virginia.

Mr. McMullen offered as a distinct resolution his proposed amendment to Mr. Bennett's Land Bill; and it lies over.

A resolution moved by Mr. Clingman was adopted, which looks to the exclusion of vessels belonging to our own or other Governments from competing with private enterprise in transporting freight or passengers.

Mr. Perkins, of Louisiana, moved a resolution, requiring the Committee of Ways and Means to report a bill repealing all duty on railroad iron; which, on motion of Mr. Hamilton, was laid on the table—yeas 78, nays 65.

Mr. Jones, of Louisiana, submitted a resolution, which was adopted, to the effect, that the Secretary of War furnish this House with a statement of the expenses incurred by the United States in consequence of the impediments to the navigation of Red river.

Mr. Campbell, of Ohio, submitted a resolution, requesting the President to inform this House what information, if any, has been received in the Post Office Department in relation to obstructions to the transportation of the mails on the route between Buffalo, New York, and Cleveland, Ohio, through the town of Erie, in the State of Pennsylvania; and what measures have been taken, if any, by the Executive, to secure the uninterrupted transportation of the mails upon said route. This resolution lies over under the rule.

Mr. Giddings submitted a resolution, requiring the appointment of a select committee to whom all petitions and memorials on the subject of peace and the establishment of arbitration between nations shall be referred, to report thereon; which lies over.

Mr. Preston moved a resolution of inquiry, respecting the orders given during the past year to our naval force in regard to our fishing interests.

Mr. Churchwell submitted a resolution instructing the Committee of Ways and Means to report a bill giving a credit of four years to railroad companies to pay the duty on iron imported by them for railroad purposes; which, on motion of Mr. Hamilton, was laid upon the table. The House then adjourned.

Senate, January 4, 1854.

Mr. Douglas, from the Committee on Territories, reported back the bill to establish a Territorial Government for Nebraska, with amendments; which was ordered to be printed.

The Senate then resumed the consideration of the resolution submitted yesterday, by Mr. Seward, relative to the question whether the Hon. S. S. Phelps, of Vermont, be entitled to a seat as a Senator from that State.

Mr. Foote urged the reference of the subject to the Committee on the Judiciary. He said it was the general opinion in Vermont, and in the Legislature of that State, when they failed to fill the vacancy, that the previous appointment by the Governor would continue.

Mr. Badger supported the motion to refer; but expressed the desire that Mr. Phelps would give the Senate his views on the question. He said that all his own previous impressions were opposed to the right of the Senator to hold his seat.

Mr. Butler said that his respect for the State of Vermont, and for the Senator himself, and for the commission he presented, would induce him to withdraw all opposition to the motion to refer.

Mr. Phelps addressed the Senate, declaring that no circumstances of a personal nature had induced him to appear here claiming a place as Senator; nothing had induced him to do so but a sense of duty to the State of Vermont, and to secure to her the right of a full representation. He said that the words of the Constitution concerning the filling of vacancies by the Governor were, that the Governor should have power to fill such vacancies until the next meeting of the Legislature of the State. He considered the limitation of the Constitution did not apply to the continuance of the appointment, and terminate it at the next meeting of the Legislature, but that the limitation was confined to the power of the Governor, whose power to fill a vacancy only continued until the Legislature met, when his power ceased.

The Senate had decided in the case of Mr. Smith, of Maryland, that the meeting of the Legislature did not terminate the term of an Executive appointment. He entered into an argument to sustain this interpretation of the Constitution.

The subject was then referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Shields, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the joint resolution from the House, giving the thanks of Congress to General John E. Wool; and the same was considered and passed.

Mr. Hamlin, from the Committee on Commerce reported a bill changing the name of the American-built brig John Dutton to Emma Eager, and granting a register in that name. Also, a bill changing the name of the steamer Falcon to Queen City; which bills were severally considered and passed.

Mr. Sumner presented the proceedings of a public meeting held at Faneuil Hall, Boston, presided over by the mayor of that city, assisted by numerous eminent persons, praying a reduction of ocean postage. Referred, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Brodhead introduced a bill extending the provisions of the several acts granting bounty land to officers and soldiers of the military service of the U. States. Referred.

Mr. Stuart introduced a bill granting land to the State of Michigan, to aid in the construction of a railroad and branches in that State. Referred.

Mr. Bright introduced a bill providing for the purchase of a site and for the erection of suitable buildings for the accommodation of the U. States Courts and the Post Office at Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mr. James introduced a bill for the relief of the officers and soldiers of the Rhode Island brigade of the Revolutionary war, their heirs and assigns. Referred.

On motion by Mr. Hunter, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill to extend the warehousing system, by establishing private bonded warehouses; and the same was read three times, and passed.

Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, submitted a resolution, which was agreed to, calling upon the Secretary of War for the report of the Commissioner appointed to select a site for a military asylum.

On motion of Mr. Chase, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of his resolution directing an inquiry by the Committee on Roads and Canals as to the expediency of constructing a railroad from one of the Western States to California.

Mr. Gwin opposed the reference of the subject to that committee, and moved to amend the resolution by referring the President's Message and all other bills and papers on the subject to a select committee of nine members.

Mr. Chase contended that this subject properly belonged to the duties assigned to the Committee on Roads and Canals.

Mr. Bright had no objection to referring the subject to a select committee; but if it be referred to any standing committee, it should be sent to the Committee on Roads and Canals.

Mr. Seward and Mr. Weller supported the motion to refer to a select committee.

Mr. Pratt said it was proposed to refer the President's Message as well as other things to this committee. He had read the Message, and confessed his inability to discover what is the opinion of the President touching the power of the grant over this subject. He thought a select committee, chosen from all sections, would perhaps lead to some measures framed in accordance with the opinion of the Executive, who otherwise might control the action of Congress on the subject.

Mr. Butler opposed all select committees. He favored a reference to one of the standing committees.

Mr. Badger followed in favor of a select committee, and Mr. Chase replied.

The question was taken, and the amendment referring the subject to a select committee of nine Senators, to be appointed by the Chair; which was agreed to—ayes 54, noes 9. Resolution as amended was adopted.

Mr. Dodge, of Iowa, offered a resolution directing the printing of 5,000 copies of the bill for the establishment of a Territorial Government for Oregon. Adopted.

And then, on motion, the Senate adjourned.

House of Representatives, Jan. 4, 1854.

Mr. Hunt, of Louisiana, made a personal explanation in relation to his vote on the proposition to repeal the duty on railroad iron, made yesterday. He is opposed to the measure; he is in favor of protection, and especially opposed to all insidious means of defeating it; and also to the "gag law," of which members avail themselves in calling the previous question.

Mr. Houston, chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, reported a bill making appropriations for the construction of fortifications, &c.

Mr. Bayly, from the same committee, reported a bill for the ascertainment and settlement of the claims of American citizens for French spoliations.

Mr. Cutting's resolution relating to the controversy between the Secretary of the Treasury and Greene C. Bronson, late Collector of the Port of New York, and the removal of the latter, was called up.

Mr. Cutting proceeded to address the House, when—

Mr. Clingman, by his permission, remarked that he would vote for the resolution, if the purpose was to bring the Secretary to accountability for his conduct, but would not vote for a resolution for mere political effect.

Mr. Cutting reviewed the history of the controversy, and urged that certain articles in the *Union* made necessary an investigation to protect Mr. Bronson from slanderous charges. He wished to develop the fact that the President should be held responsible for the conduct of the Secretary, and the publications of the *Union*.

Mr. Cutting persisted in speaking amidst many interruptions, and argued that the official character of the editor of the *Union*, as printer to the House, gave authority and importance to his assaults.

He concluded by moving the previous question, when Mr. Orr, of S. C., moved to lay the resolution on the table; which was decided in the affirmative—yeas 104, nays 66.

Mr. Houston, of Alabama, moved to terminate the debate on the President's Message in Committee of the Whole at 3 o'clock to-day, and refused to modify his resolution by naming a future day; when

Mr. Taylor, of Ohio, moved to lay the resolution on the table; which prevailed.

At 25 minutes before 2 o'clock, the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, Mr. Orr in the chair; when

Mr. Washburn, of Maine, addressed the House on the annexation of the Sandwich Islands. He deprecated the morbid desire of conquest or territorial acquisition that pervades the country, and believed that the attention of the Republic should be directed to the promotion of the welfare of the Territories we now possess.

The energies of the nation, he contended, could here find ample scope for their profitable exercise in the promotion of the arts of peace. He would have us guided by the principles that were avowed and cherished by the early fathers of the Republic, which were not those of an aggressive ambition. He, however, entered upon an historical and descriptive account of the islands.

The House, after having come out of Committee, took up the joint resolution authorizing the President to confer the title of Lieutenant General. A motion to lay on the table failed, and the resolution was then referred to the Military Committee.

Several bills were referred to appropriate committees, and the House adjourned.

Senate, Jan. 5, 1854.

On motion by Mr. Badger, it was ordered that when the Senate adjourn, it be till Monday next.

Mr. Foot gave notice of a bill to provide for the construction of a railroad from the Mississippi river to the Pacific coast, which he said be would explain at the time of its introduction.

Mr. Houston submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on Public Buildings inquire into the expediency of providing by law for the erection of a suitable building for the Department of State.

Mr. Douglas suggested that the resolution be amended by including—and for the Interior, War, and Navy Departments. The resolution was modified accordingly, and then adopted.

Mr. Mallory introduced a bill to establish a land district in the State of Florida, to be called the district of Tampa. Referred.

On motion of Mr. Cass,

Resolved, That the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making an appropriation for the survey of the harbors on Lake Superior, within the limits of the United States.

Mr. Mallory submitted the following resolution, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be requested to communicate to the Senate the amount of public money received and expended by Luther Blake, late agent of the United States for the removal of Indians from Florida, as such agent, with the objects for which said money was expended, and the number of Indians removed by him.

Mr. Jones, of Tennessee, submitted the following resolution, which was agreed to:

Resolved, That the Committee on Military Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of purchasing three of Thomas H. Barlow's Planetariums, for the use of West Point Military Academy, Annapolis Naval School, and National Observatory.

Mr. Johnson, of Arkansas, gave notice of a bill to grant to the new States an additional section of land, in each township, for school purposes.

Mr. James presented the memorial of L. P. Holladay & Co., praying leave to erect on the public grounds, in the City of Washington, a first-class hotel.

After the transaction of some unimportant business, the Senate, at an early hour, adjourned.

House of Representatives, Jan. 5, 1854.

Mr. Walley, of Massachusetts, appeared today and took his seat.

A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury was presented, and referred to the Committee on Commerce. It relates to the loss of the revenue cutter Hamilton, and recommends the building of other vessels for this service.

Also, a communication from the same Department, in relation to a custom-house at San Francisco; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Also, a communication from the Secretary of War, enclosing reports, maps, and estimates, relative to the improvement of the Mississippi river. Referred to the Committee on Commerce.

Mr. Dean, from the Committee on Foreign Affairs, unanimously reported back the joint resolution of thanks to Captain Ingraham, with a substitute for the same, in which is omitted any declaration respecting the citizenship of Koszta. The presentation of a medal instead of a sword is also recommended, as the conduct of Captain Ingraham is regarded in a civil and not in a military character.

The substitute was explained by Mr. Dean and Mr. Bayly.

Mr. Millson was unprepared to vote for the resolution, though disposed to commend the conduct of Captain Ingraham. He thought the terms of the resolution should be well considered, and hoped its consideration might be deferred.

Mr. Bayly assured the House that it had been well considered in the committee, and spoke of its having received the scrutiny and approval of every member of the committee, including the gentleman from Pennsylvania, [Mr. Chandler,] whom he spoke of with courtesy as a *Federalist.* [Laughter.] Mr. Bayly was weary of seeing the United States always a defendant in controversies such as the Koszta case involved. He believed Koszta should have been protected, and he fully commended the conduct of Captain Ingraham.

Mr. Orr, of South Carolina, had not believed any objection would arise. He spoke of the character of the committee reporting the resolution, and declared that the resolution contained no sentiment to which any Whig or Democrat could object. It simply approved the *act* of Captain Ingraham in extending the protection of our Government to Mr. Koszta, and authorized the President of the United States to present a medal, in a suitable manner. Mr. Orr would thank Captain Ingraham, in the name of humanity and of patriotism, and earnestly and eloquently opposed Mr. Millson's motion to refer the subject to the Committee of the Whole. Captain Ingraham had not delayed his action a moment, nor should the Government of his nation delay to do him honor.

Mr. Richardson, of Illinois, advocated the immediate passage of the resolution. He declared that Captain Ingraham had won honor for the flag of his country, and that a vote of thanks and a testimonial to him, and his officers and crew, would be also by implication a deserved commendation of the noble response of the Secretary of State to the demand of the Austrian Government.

Mr. Millson disclaimed the intention of opposing the resolution. He appeared to approve the conduct of Captain Ingraham, however, upon considerations of humanity alone, as his individual act, and not as an act in the discharge of his legitimate duty.

Mr. Richardson approved of his conduct, because it was the act of our Government, and because it has served to elevate our Government in the estimation of the world.

Mr. Hillyer thought the only duty of Congress was to give expression to the *national* sentiment. He respected every moral and humane sentiment involved, but he wished the world to know that our Government had assumed all responsibility in the premises.

Mr. Chandler delivered a brief, but exceedingly eloquent speech, in support of the resolution. He approved all that had been said by the gentleman from South Carolina, [Mr. Orr,] except the allusion to himself, though he did not disclaim the party affinity imputed. He approved the resolution upon the principles of both humanity and patriotism, quoting the aphorism, "he gives twice who gives promptly." He was listened to with marked attention.

Mr. Phillips would vote for the resolution, but was in favor of the original. He was not in favor of a compromise which sacrifices the full and frank avowal of principles. He would assign the reasons for the passage of the resolution. He would have the world to know that the heart of the American nation was right on the subject; that the principles upon which Captain Ingraham acted will ever guide where the rights of American citizens of any degree are involved. Mr. Koszta's quasi-citizenship entitled him to our protection, and he would have it so proclaimed. He denied the right of Captain Ingraham to put in jeopardy his life, and those of his companions, and the safety of his ship, and the position of our Government, upon any other than National principles.

Mr. Smith, of Alabama, was opposed to all the propositions that had been made. He might be, as on a former occasion, (in the case of certain Kossuth resolutions, we believe,) in a minority of one; but, if allowed an opportunity, he would, at a future time, show that no such resolution should be adopted, and that the letter of the Secretary of State would not stand the tests he would apply to it. The "National heart," he said, was not always right. A distracting foreigner had once carried it away, and Captain Long was condemned for an act requiring great courage, when he prevented Kossuth from producing strife between this country and France.

Mr. Stanton, of Tennessee, regarded the passage of the resolution as the duty of Congress. He dissented from the opinion of Mr. Smith, that a man should not be thanked for the performance of his duty. He thought that a great and perilous duty, performed in a fearless and noble manner, should ever receive our special commendation. He alluded to the omission of such a duty on a memorable occasion, at Havana. He regretted the regulations of our navy would not permit the promotion of Captain Ingraham. He had been informed that the Austrian commander had been promoted for the part he had acted.

Mr. Smith, of Virginia, was in favor of delay and consideration. He was in favor of a full and emphatic expression of opinions on the subject.

Between Mr. Bayly and Mr. Smith some pleasantry occurred, in regard to the right to the floor; when

Mr. Smith proceeded to review the subject, and affirmed that the Inaugural and the letter of Mr. Marcy had proclaimed doctrines that

would yet be recognised and respected throughout the civilized world.

The Secretary of State had not based the right to protect Koszta upon the grounds of his citizenship, but of his domicil in this country. In Europe, the doctrines assumed by Secretary Marcy had not been openly opposed by responsible journals or statesmen. He would not sustain Captain Ingraham at all, if not upon a principle. Koszta, when lawlessly seized at Smyrna, held in his hand a paper guarantying to him American protection. Captain Ingraham had no right to look behind that. That was for his Government to do, if it thought proper. His duty was to respect it, and he performed it.

Mr. Gerrit Smith followed in a brief speech, among the most beautiful and impressive ever delivered in this body. He rejoiced in the sentiments he had heard uttered by gentlemen from Virginia and South Carolina. He too would vote for the resolutions on principles of humanity. He would extol whomsoever would rescue the oppressed. We shall not even attempt to sketch this noble and touching effort. There was breathless attention in the Hall, and the tones of the speaker's voice fell with clearness and emphasis upon every ear. [This speech will be found in full in another column.]

After Mr. Gerrit Smith had concluded his speech, he was followed by Mr. Churchwell and Mr. Bayly, in support of the resolutions in commedation of Captain Ingraham; when Mr. Perkins obtained the floor, and the House adjourned.

The resolutions which formed the subject of debate were as follows:

"*Be it resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress assembled,* That the thanks of Congress be, and they are hereby, presented to Duncan N. Ingraham, commanding the U. States sloop-of-war St. Louis, for his judicious and gallant conduct on the second day of July last, in extending the protection of the American Government to Martin Koszta, by rescuing him from forcible and illegal seizure and imprisonment on board the Austrian brig Hussar.

"*Resolved,* That the President of the United States be, and is hereby, requested to cause to be made a medal, with suitable devices, and presented to Captain Duncan N. Ingraham, as a testimonial of the high sense entertained by Congress of his valor, promptness, and judicious conduct on the above-mentioned occasion.

"*Resolved,* That the President of the United States cause the foregoing resolutions to be communicated to Capt. Duncan N. Ingraham, in such terms as he may deem best calculated to give effect to the objects thereof."

Senate, Jan. 6, 1854.

The Senate did not sit to-day.

House of Representatives, Jan. 6, 1854.

A communication from the War Department, giving information respecting the expenditures and estimates for Rivers and Harbors, came up for consideration on the proposition to relieve the Committee of Ways and Means of its consideration, and refer it to the Committee on Commerce.

This was opposed by Mr. Ewing, of Kentucky, and other gentlemen, who thought Western interests would not be so likely to be promoted by the reference to the proposed committee. A protracted debate ensued, in which the general subject of internal improvements was involved, participated in by Mr. Dunbar of La., Mr. Hunt of La., Mr. Campbell of Ohio, and others.

Mr. Dunbar was in favor of the present recommendation, but not in favor of "a general system of internal improvement;" but Messrs. Hunt and Campbell wanted a definition of this term, and were opposed to partial improvements. Mr. Campbell thought the expression as vague as that relating to "a judicious tariff."

Mr. Wentworth was in favor of referring the subject to the Committee on Commerce, and thought the reference to the Committee on Roads and Canals would kill it. He was interrupted by Messrs. Fuller of Maine, Gray of Kentucky, Ewing of Kentucky, Campbell of Ohio, and Hunt of Louisiana, who, by his permission, explained their positions upon this, and some of them upon former bills relating to internal improvements. It was finally referred to the Committee on Commerce.

This being the day assigned for that purpose, the Speaker took up the private bills on the table, as received from the Senate, which were severally read and appropriately referred. A number of private and unimportant bills were also presented and referred.

At twenty minutes past one o'clock the House resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on the Private Calendar, and was occupied therewith until the adjournment, which was until next Tuesday, thus giving members an opportunity, as has been customary for some years, of spending a day in honor of the victory of New Orleans.

MEETING OF THE PENNSYLVANIA FREE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE.

VALLEY FORGE, PA., *Dec.* 31, 1853.

To the Editor of the National Era:

As the *Era* is read by many who do not see the local Free Democratic papers of this State, I wish through its columns to call the attention of Free Democrats generally to the approaching meeting of the State Committee, of which a notice appears in another column. The Committee, according to the resolution of the Convention of 1st last June, is to consist of three members from each of the counties of Allegheny, Dauphin, Montgomery, and Philadelphia, and one from each of the other counties in the State. Up to the present time, the information obtained by the Committee has enabled them to carry out this plan for all the counties except the following, viz: Adams, Berks, Bedford, Cambria, Carbon, Centre, Columbia, Cumberland, Franklin, Fulton, Huntingdon, Jefferson, Juniata, Mifflin, Monroe, Montour, Northumberland, Pike, Schuylkill, and Sullivan.

In some of these a few names have been furnished to the Committee, but no communication has been received from the individuals themselves, except in perhaps a single instance. In the others no names have been ascertained, though there are, doubtless, Free Democrats in nearly all of them. It is, therefore, suggested to any such, in those counties, that are willing to aid in completing the organization of the State, that they meet the Committee at Harrisburg, and register their names, counties, and post offices, with the Treasurer of the Committee, and thus give an opportunity of filling such vacancies as may still exist.

Our friends will doubtless see the importance of fillnig up the committee, and likewise of a general attendance of all its members at this meeting. If none of the counties above named should furnish members, there will still be 44 counties represented by 52 members. If these should generally attend, it will be a more important State meeting than any which has yet been held by the party in this State, and will go far to give us an existence, living, acting, and growing, in every part of it.

As the State Temperance Convention meets at the same time and place, there will be in this circumstance a strong inducement for Free Democrats, who recognise a prohibitory liquor law as a part of their State platform, to attend and give their countenance to that demonstration in its favor.

These meetings will also afford us the further advantage of showing to Temperance men the false position in which they place themselves, while they support a party which has reviled us for adopting unreservedly the measure which they themselves profess to make paramount to all others; or, on the other hand, while they support a party which has cautiously avoided any endorsement of that measure, and yet refuse their support to Free Democratic candidates, against whom they can bring no worse accusation than that they oppose the enormous and unconstitutional aggressions of the Slave Power.

The Free Democratic and independent papers of the State, in order to further the object of this communication, are requested to give it a place in their columns, or call the attention of their readers to the subject.

C. P. JONES.

BEWARE OF COUNTERFEIT AND BOGUS NOTES. We have received within the last three or four weeks over one hundred dollars of counterfeit or bogus money, in notes of the denomination of from one to ten dollars each, and from various sections, but principally from the West, where they seem to be completely inundated with such kind of trash. Thirty dollars of this amount was in ten dollar bills of the Rochester Bank, N. Y., and was received from the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan; also, numerous other notes, purporting to be on various banks in this city and Georgetown, D. C., which never existed, that we have ever been able to find out.

Our friends cannot be too careful in selecting money to send us. For their guidance, we would state that no notes purporting to be issued in this city or Georgetown are considered good, or will be received by us, except the following:

Bank of Washington, Bank of Metropolis, Patriotic Bank, and Exchange Bank of Selden, Withers, & Co., of this city; Bank of Commerce, Farmers and Mechanics' Bank, and Corporation of Georgetown, Georgetown, D. C.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1854

OUR LIST.

Don't stop, good friends, if you please. The List has not quite renewed, and we have back numbers for all. If ever we needed hearty co-operation, it is now. Loss we shall suffer this year, on the new enterprise of the *Daily*; but we trust, through your earnest efforts to keep up the *Weekly* List, that we shall be able to bear it.

AN APOLOGY.

An apology is necessary for the miserable quality of paper on which this edition is printed. We had to take it or nothing. The evil will soon be remedied.

THE LEMMON CASE—INTERFERENCE OF GOVERNOR COBB.

Our readers have not forgotten the Lemmon case. Mr. Lemmon, a citizen of Virginia, on his way to Texas with slaves, found it convenient to stop at New York. A *habeas corpus* being taken out, the slaves were declared by Judge Payne entitled to freedom, on the ground that, having been brought into the State, by the will of the master, they became free by its fundamental law, to the operation of which there is and can be no exception, but in the case of *fugitive* slaves, the right to reclaim whom is expressly provided for by the Constitution of the United States. According to the newspaper accounts at the time, Judge Payne made the decision with sorrow, and subsequently joined with others in raising a fund to indemnify Mr. Lemmon for the loss of "the slaves."

Governor Cobb, of Georgia, in his parting message to the Legislature, while congratulating the country upon the termination of all sectional strife, thought proper to review this case, and indulge in a strain of remark well calculated to rekindle the fires of sectionalism:

"Though indemnified fully, I believe, by voluntary subscription, yet the principle involved in the decision is one of vast importance and of startling tendency, in which the interest of Mr. Lemmon becomes insignificant, and the interest of every slaveholding State paramount and equal. Virginia and Texas have no deeper interest than Georgia and Alabama. It is understood that an appeal has been taken from the decision to the appellate court of New York, and it is probable that the final adjudication of the question involved will be made by the Supreme Court of the United States. The deliberate determination of any question by that tribunal commands and should receive the respect of the country, and constitutes a precedent controlling subsequent cases. The principles involved in the decision of Judge Payne will be better considered in a court room than in a document like the present. It is not my purpose, therefore, to submit an argument on the correctness of that decision. If such is the law, it is the first time that it has been solemnly thus pronounced in a case made before any tribunal within my knowledge. If it be true that the citizens of the slaveholding States who, by force of circumstances or for convenience, seek a passage through the territory of a non-slaveholding State with their slaves, are thereby deprived of their property in them, and the slaves *ipso facto* become emancipated, it is time that we know the law as it is. No court in America has ever announced this to be law. It would be exceedingly strange if it should be. By the comity of nations the personal *status* of every man is determined by the law of his domicil, and whether he be bond or free, capable or incapable *there*, he remains so *everywhere* until a new domicil is acquired. This is but the courtesy of nation to nation, founded not upon the statute, but is absolutely necessary for the peace and harmony of States, and for the enforcement of private justice. A denial of this comity is unheard among civilized nations; and if deliberately and wantonly persisted in, would be just cause of war. Can it be possible that the courtesy yielded by independent nations to each other can be rightfully denied by one of these States to the others? Is the bond of union an authority or reason for a course of conduct so unjustifiable without that bond? Did the framers of the Constitution, so wise and so provident as to all other possible causes of disturbance between the States, permit so pregnant a source of discord to pass unheeded and unprovided for? In yielding our right to make treaties and to declare war, have we left ourselves remediless in cases of palpable violation of the law and comity of nations? The adjudication of these questions by the tribunal organized under the Constitution cannot be reviewed with indifference by us. Every slaveholding State should be heard before that tribunal. I therefore recommend that, in the event of the Lemmon case being carried before the Supreme Court, the Executive be authorized to employ able counsel, in behalf of the State of Georgia, to be heard before that court upon these questions."

The Governor (or ex-Governor, as he is now) betrays a strange ignorance of law and facts. Slavery is against Natural Right, and is sanctioned alone by local law. The law under which a slave is held in Virginia, is municipal, and has no extra-territorial force. It is not the law of New York, or of any other State. The law of New York recognises every human being on its soil, as free, with the single exception created by the "higher law" of the Federal Constitution, that of a person held to service or labor in another State, *escaping into it:* but the New York law, although in accordance with Natural Right, has no force in Virginia. A slaveholder who carries his slaves to New York, cannot carry with him the municipal laws of Virginia, or any other State. He and his servants, carried by his voluntary act into New York, stand equally free in the eye of the fundamental law of that State. He cannot hold them subject under Virginia law, for that has no extra-territorial force. He cannot hold them subject under New York law, for that is the Law of Liberty. "But comity requires from New York that she respect in such a case the municipal laws of Virginia." That would be true, were not the question one of fundamental right; but comity cannot justify the Judiciary of New York in violating the organic law of the State, nor in any case can it justify a breach of justice. The slaves, released from bondage, by the voluntary act of the master in conveying them beyond the boundary of the State under whose laws they were held to service, and also in introducing them into a free State, acquire a right to protection—the protection of their liberties; and no comity could justify the State in withholding such protection. It is just as much bound to protect *them* against violence, as their *quondam* master.

Governor Cobb says: "If it be true that the citizens of the slaveholding States, who, by force of circumstances or for convenience, seek a passage through the territory of a non slaveholding State with their slaves, are thereby deprived of their property in them, and the slaves *ipso facto* become emancipated, it is time that we should know the law as it is. No *court in America* has ever announced this *to be the law.*"

That is cool, considering that since the year 1836, such announcement has been repeatedly made by the Courts of Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Ohio, and the principle of the law—namely, the purely municipal character of slavery—has been repeatedly affirmed by Judge McLean of the Supreme Bench, and by the higher Courts of Tennessee, Kentucky, and other Slave States.

Nor is it true that, by the comity of nations, the *status* of Slavery adheres to a man, wherever he goes beyond the jurisdiction of the State which fastens this *status* upon him. Precisely the reverse is true. Neither by the law nor by the comity of nations can fugitive criminals be reclaimed, much less fugitives from service. Reclamation can be, and is, made only in virtue of express stipulation. Hence the clause inserted in our Constitution, as an agreement between the States, in relation to such fugitives, who, the framers of that instrument well understood, could not be reclaimed under any regulations of International Law or Comity. A denial of this comity, says the Governor, "is unheard of among civilized nations, and if deliberately and wantonly persisted in, would be just cause of war!" We venture to say that this is the crudest and most ridiculous declaration ever uttered, even by an American Governor. Not to appeal to all history, which flatly contradicts the averment, we need but refer to what is notorious to the whole world—that Great Britain now shelters under her Government eleven thousand fugitive slaves from this country, has once for all refused to deny them asylum, and has absolutely refused to surrender slaves from the South, driven by stress of weather into her West India ports, since the date of Emancipation in her Islands, or to make compensation for them. Her decision on this last point was rendered in 1842; and from that time to this, our Government has been acquiescent. And yet, according to this enlightened Governor, it is a just cause of war!

The movement now on foot, led by the State of Virginia, and to be sustained by other slaveholding States, if the advice of Governor Cobb be taken, aims at no less than the Nationalization of Slavery, and the abrogation of the Municipal Laws of all the Free States, through the agency of the Federal Judiciary. In other words, it is a most flagrant demonstration of the worst kind of Federalism, emanating from a State which boasts of her love of State rights and abhorrence of Federal Centralization.

THE NEBRASKA BILL—AGITATION IN PROSPECT.

During the last Congress, an effort was made in the Committee on Territories, in dealing with the Nebraska Question, to run the southern boundary of the proposed Territory along the 38th parallel of north latitude, with the manifest purpose of avoiding a recognition of the Missouri Compromise line of 36 deg. 30 min. The effort failed—the true boundary of the Territory was preserved—the bill went to the Senate, and there met with the opposition of the Southern Senators, because it proposed the erection of a Territory, which, in virtue of the Missouri Proviso of 1820, would be *free.* It failed, as we all know; and since that time, Senator Atchison in Missouri has been opposing the organization of any such Territory, unless slaveholders could have secured to them the privilege of carrying slaves into it. In his speech at Lafayette, Missouri, he boldly declared that he would vote for no bill to organize Nebraska, unless the Missouri Compromise, which excluded Slavery from all territory north of 36 deg. 30 min., were suspended! This was reopening the agitation of the Question of Slavery with a vengeance.

We perceive that in the Senate Mr. Douglas has "reported back the bill to organize the Territory of Nebraska, with sundry amendments," intended, we presume, to meet the demands of Senator Atchison. Whether they do so, or not, we shall have occasion to examine. We find in a morning paper a synopsis of the bill, as follows:

"The first section of the bill defines the boundary as follows: All that part of the United States included within the following limits, except such portions as are hereinafter expressly exempted from the operation of this act, viz: Beginning at the southwest corner of the State of Missouri; thence west on the line of 36 deg. 30 min. north latitude until it intersects the 103d meridian of longitude west of Greenwich; thence north on the same meridian until it intersects the 38th parallel of north latitude; thence west on the same parallel of latitude to the summit of the Rocky Mountains; thence northward along and upon the summit of said range of mountains to the western boundary of the Territory of Minnesota; thence southward on and with said boundary to the Missouri river; thence down the centre of the main channel of said river to the State of Missouri; thence south on and with the western boundary of said State, to the place of beginning, be created into a temporary Government, by the name of the Territory of Nebraska; and when admitted as a State or States, the said Territory, or any portion of the same, shall be received into the Union with or without Slavery, as their Constitutions may prescribe at the time of their admission, provided that nothing contained in the act shall be construed to inhibit the Government of the United States from dividing such territory into two or more Territories, in such manner and at such times as Congress may deem convenient and proper; or from attaching any portion of said territory to any other State or Territory of the United States; provided, further, that nothing shall be construed to impair the rights of person or property now pertaining to the Indians in said Territory, so long as such rights shall remain unextinguished by treaty, or to include any territory which, by treaty with any Indian tribe, is not without the consent of said tribe, to be included within the limits or jurisdiction of any State or Territory; but all such territory shall be excepted out of the boundaries, and constitute no part of the Territory of Nebraska, until said tribe shall signify their assent to the President of the United States to be included within the said Territory of Nebraska; or to affect the authority of the United States to make any regulation respecting such Indians, their lands, property, or other rights, by treaty, laws, or otherwise, which it would have been competent for the Government to make if this act had never passed.

"It makes the act of 1793, respecting fugitives from justice and persons escaping from service of their masters, together with the amendatory act of 1850, to extend to and be in full force in the Territory.

"The Constitution and laws of the United States, not locally inapplicable, are to be in full force.

"The seat of Government is to be located at Fort Leavenworth."

The part relating to Slavery is the following:

"And when admitted *as a State or States,* the said Territory, or any portion of the same, shall be received into the Union, *with or without Slavery, as their Constitutions may prescribe at the time of their admission.*"

This is a reaffirmation of one of the provisions of the Compromise Measures of 1850, extorted by the supporters of Slavery. It does not touch the *Territorial* relations of Nebraska to Slavery, as they are already defined and settled by the Proviso in the act of 1820, for the admission of Missouri as a State:

"*And be it further enacted,* That *in all that territory* ceded by France to the United States, under the name of Louisiana, which lies *north of 36 deg. 30 min. N. L., not included within the limits of the State contemplated by this act, Slavery and involuntary servitude, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes, whereof the parties shall have been duly convicted, shall be, and hereby is, prohibited forever.*

"*Provided, always,* That any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any State or Territory of the United States, such fugitive may be *lawfully reclaimed,* and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid."

Missouri could not have been admitted as a *slaveholding* State, without this restriction. The Compromise virtually divided the Territory of Louisiana into two parts, the one below 36 deg. 30 min. being secured for *slave labor,* the one above 36 deg. 30 min. to *free labor.* It has been held to be in force ever since, and nobody has dreamed that Slavery could exist in the territory north of 36 deg. 30 min. Now, however, that the Indian title is about to be extinguished, and the vast region from the borders of the Western States to the Rocky Mountains is to be opened for the formation of free States, Senator Atchison and his slaveholding associates seek to throw up "the bargain." They have got all that it originally gave them, and they now demand all that was given to Freedom. The reaffirmation, in the bill of Mr. Douglas, of the Compromise of 1850, is not quite up to their demand, for it leaves the Missouri restriction in full force in the Territory, so long as it shall remain a Territory. Still, as the Pro Slavery Party in Congress has boldly attempted in this bill to secure a reaffirmation of the provisions of the Compromise of 1850, which declares that any State applying for admission shall be received, with or without Slavery, as it may elect, we insist that the Anti-Slavery Party should require a reaffirmation of the Proviso of the Missouri act of 1820, which excludes Slavery from all territory north of 36 deg. 30 min., so long as it remains Territory.

NEBRASKA—AGITATION—THE WHOLE QUESTION RE-OPENED.

When we said, in the preceding article, that the Proviso of the Missouri act of 1820 virtually divided the Louisiana Territory into two parts — the one below 36 deg. 30 min. being secured for *slave labor,* the one above 36 deg. 30 min. to *free labor*—we did not mean to admit that the provision itself secured the existence of Slavery anywhere. It did no such thing; but Slavery existed below 36 deg. 30 min. as a fact, and, Congress forbearing to legislate for its exclusion thence, while it did banish it expressly from above that parallel of latitude, tacitly and wrongfully sanctioned it below.

With this explanation, we resume the consideration of the subject of Territorial Government for Nebraska.

While the Whig and Democratic Parties stand committed, through the declarations of their National Conventions, to resist the agitation of the Slavery Question, a report has been made in the Senate, which formally re-opens the whole Question, and brings up again for discussion the issues of 1850. We refer to the report of Mr. Douglas, from the Committee on Territories, recommending the organization of Nebraska.

We were told, in 1850, that there was not one foot of soil belonging to the United States, the condition of which, as it respects Freedom and Slavery, was not fixed by law. No one ventured to contradict this assertion of Daniel Webster, so far as the old territory belonging to the United States north of 36 deg. 30 min. was concerned. Southern men admitted the fact, and reasoned upon it. Mr. Calhoun, in portraying the power of the free States, uniformly spoke not only of all that Territory, but also of Oregon, as Free Soil, and the nursery of future non-slaveholding States. He knew that Law had recognised its exemption from Slavery, and solemnly secured it; for he was a member of the Cabinet under whose express sanction Mr. Monroe signed the bill containing the Anti-Slavery Proviso. Before committing himself, Mr. Monroe submitted two questions to his Cabinet: Had Congress the constitutional power to prohibit Slavery in a Territory? Was the term "forever," in the prohibitive clause of the Missouri bill, to be understood as referring only to the territorial condition of the district to which it related, or was it an attempt to extend the prohibition of Slavery to such States as might be erected therefrom?

"On the first question, all the Cabinet declared themselves in the affirmative, though neither Calhoun, Crawford, nor Wirt, could see any express authority, and though Wirt himself was strong against implied powers. As to the second question, Adams thought that the term 'forever' must be understood to mean forever, and that the prohibition, instead of ceasing with the territorial condition of the district, would extend to any States that might at any time be erected out of it. The others—including Thompson, of New-York, placed in the Navy Department about a year before, as successor to Crowninshield, and, as well as Baldwin, elevated at the first opportunity to the bench of the Supreme Federal Court—were all of opinion that this 'forever' was only a territorial forever, not interfering with the right of any State, that might at any time be organized within the district referred to, to establish or prohibit Slavery. But to prevent this delicate point being mooted, and to give to the opinion of the Cabinet an appearance of unanimity, the second question was modified, at Calhoun's suggestion, into the mere inquiry, Was the proviso, as it stood in the bill, constitutional or not? To this, notwithstanding the fundamental difference above pointed out, they could all say yes. They all did say so in writing, and no more; and on the strength of these deceptively unanimous opinions, ordered to be deposited in the archives of State, whence they have since disappeared. Monroe put his name to the two bills." *

This restrictive clause, exempting all of Louisiana Territory north of 36 deg. 30 min. from the curse of Slavery, has been held to be in force ever since. No attempt has been made to repeal it; but an effort was made, pending the questions of Territorial Government for Oregon, New Mexico, and California, in 1848–'49–'50, to extend the restrictive line to the Pacific. A motion of this kind was made in the House by Judge Douglass, and sustained by those members, North and South, who were opposed to the Wilmot Proviso. Did they believe they were voting for the extension of a line which was unconstitutional, null and void?

We repeat, nobody dreamed that there could be any question whether the territory north of 36 deg. 30 min. was exempt from Slavery. The non-slaveholders of the country have always congratulated themselves on this exemption. If any fact seems settled in our political system, it was the fact that all that broad territory was consecrated forever to Freedom—the home of Free Labor and Free Laborers.

Resting in this conviction, the Anti-Slavery men raised no question about Slavery last winter, when the Nebraska Territorial Bill was acted upon in the House. Not a word was said about the Wilmot Proviso. *They* did not agitate; the organization of Nebraska was so clearly right, its exemption from Slavery was so absolutely secured, in their opinion, by a compromise agreed to thirty-three years ago, and never disturbed, that they could hardly imagine it possible that the Slave Power would manifest opposition. They were doomed to disappointment. In the Senate, the bill was resisted by the whole slaveholding delegation, with one exception, and failed. They had reason to be disturbed by such opposition, and when they saw Senator Atchison, of Missouri, deeply interested as that State is in Nebraska, opposing the policy of organizing it, unless on condition of the repeal of the Missouri Compromise, they felt that the Slave Interest, while pretending to deprecate the agitation of Slavery, had, by its own act, revived that agitation, not now on the stale pretext of defending its rights, but with the audacious purpose of converting Territory guarantied *free,* by law, into Slaveholding Territory, so as to augment its power and perpetuate its domination. Yes—the conspiracy of the Slavery Propagandists now is, to abrogate the Missouri Compromise, to make all the Territory, west of our border States, Slave Territory, out of which to erect a cordon of Slave States around the Free West! And this conspiracy is to be carried on under cover of the bill reported in the Senate by Mr. Douglass.

We said the provision in it which guaranties the admission of any State or States which may hereafter be organized, into the Union, with or without Slavery, does not touch the *territorial* relations of Nebraska to Slavery, so long as it remains Territory, and that those relations have been defined and settled "forever" by the Missouri Compromise. But, *why* was such a provision inserted? The proposition is to organize a *Territorial* Government for Nebraska. Why attempt to anticipate any question concerning the organization of States out of it? Why not let each Congress determine for itself what course shall be pursued on the practical questions calling for its action?

The task of this Congress is to form a *Territorial* Government for Nebraska, not to act upon a proposition for its admission as a State. Why insidiously connect with the bill to organize a Territorial Government for Nebraska, a reaffirmation of that part of the Compromise of 1850, which declares that a State applying for admission to the Union, shall be received, whether with or without Slavery? Is it supposed that such a declaration can pass now, any more than it did then, without hot discussion and contention? and is this the entertainment to which the Pro-Slavery Party, with its whinings against agitation, invites the country?

The truth is, the effect, if not the intention, of the bill is, to remove Nebraska from the ground of the Proviso of 1820, and organize it upon the basis of the Compromise of 1850, placing it in the same category with Utah and New Mexico, leaving it an open question whether it be exempt from Slavery or not. This Question, shut by the Missouri Compromise, is now, after a lapse of thirty three years, to be again opened. In the name of the God of the Oppressed, we ask, *why?* Who is to be the gainer? If the slaveholders really wanted peace and quiet, why did they not suffer the Territory, Free by Law, to be organized as Free Territory? If Mr. Douglas and his Committee had really been opposed to agitation, nothing was easier than to avoid it on such a question. They might have done what was done last winter in the House—framed just such a bill—a bill for the simple organization of a Territorial Government, without allusion to Slavery. Instead of this, we have, first, a report going over all the issues passed upon in 1820 and 1850, and then a bill with certain provisions in it relating to Slavery, which evidently contemplate the possibility that this new Territory may fall under the domination of the Curse. And all this gratuitous provocation to the agitation of the Slavery Question, comes from those who are pledged to resist all attempts to renew such agitation!

It may be said, if the provision in the bill concerning Slavery, does not touch the relation of the Territory to Slavery, so long as it shall remain a Territory, why be disturbed, why agitated by it? We have already answered the question in part, in another number we shall answer it in full.

Meantime, let us admonish the country, that, by the action of the Pro-Slavery party, every issue passed upon by the Compromise measures of 1850, is again submitted to discussion, the Missouri Compromise itself is again dragged into the political arena, the whole question of Slavery is forced upon the Federal Legislature; and that the object this time is, not to protect existing Slavery, as was the case in 1820, not to propagate Slavery into territory acquired by conquest, and whose condition is undetermined by American Law, as was the case in relation to New Mexico and California; but to convert into Slave Territory a vast tract of country which for thirty-three years has been consecrated by American Law to Freedom and Free Labor.

If the non-slaveholders of the Republic submit to this last exaction, to the wisdom and goodness of the All-wise alone shall we look, to rescue them from the deep damnation of their apostacy and servility.

THE KOSZTA AFFAIR.

From the indications furnished by the debate in the House yesterday, on the resolutions of thanks to Captain Ingraham, we infer that the conduct of the Administration in the Koszta affair does not meet with the approbation of a portion of the Southern members. They are afraid to thank Captain Ingraham, lest they should impliedly sanction the principles affirmed in the Marcy Letter, respecting the right of inchoate citizens to the protection of the Government, and also give countenance to the idea that the Principle of Humanity may, at times, rightfully dictate the action of the Government.

Of course, every intelligent observer feels that it is the extreme jealousy and timid conservatism engendered by Slave Institutions, that obstructs the passage of these simple resolutions in honor of a gallant American officer.

Mr. Chandler, of Pennsylvania, spoke with great force and pertinence in support of the resolutions:

"The Queen of England never permitted an act of humanity towards a suffering Briton to escape a distinctive token of regard; and was an American less to be regarded than a foreigner? Was the principle of humanity less to be regarded and less to be approved of here than abroad? This measure was one of self-respect, and there was no proverb more applicable to it than the old Latin proverb: *Bis dat qui cito dat*—he gives twice who gives quickly. While they were deliberating, the spirit of their good act was evaporating, and the whole matter was becoming a piece of formal legislation. This was a question that appealed to the feelings of every American—one that appealed to them as representatives of the American people. It was not a question whether this man or that man had a particular claim for our defence. It was a question whether the flag of the United States should not afford protection to the oppressed and suffering who might claim exemption from that species of tyranny to which Koszta was subjected, and whether Congress might not in self-respect dignify their legislation by showing that they appreciated the virtue of humanity so far as to reward an action which reflected credit at home and abroad upon the navy of our country. A few months ago, while abroad, he had an opportunity of listening to discussions upon this question, and though many doubted whether we were not involving ourselves in difficulties in undertaking to defend a citizen whose claim was not a full one, still they believed that humanity and the progress of human rights justified the action of Capt. Ingraham, and called for applause upon it.

In another column will be found the resolutions, and the speech of Hon. Gerrit Smith.

Mr. Akers, a young artist of Maine, has modeled a beautiful bust of Mr. Speaker Boyd.

NEBRASKA—THE QUESTION.

The report of the Committee on Territories on the subject of Nebraska, appears to-day in the *Era.* We ask for it the serious attention of every reader. We are to understand that it presents the views of the Administration, and that the bill it recommends is to be urged as an Administration measure.

The report attempts to run a parallel between the condition of the Territories acquired from Mexico in 1848, and that of the Territory of Nebraska now, assimilating them with a view of enforcing the propriety of similar legislation in regard to them. It assumes, too, that the Compromise Measures of 1850 were intended to embrace in their provisions all the territory of the United States.

The whole of this part of the report is mischievously deceptive. The Compromise of 1850 embraced the admission of California as a State, the settlement of the Texas Boundary Question, the organization of the Territorial Governments of Utah and New Mexico, the abolition of Slave Importation into the District of Columbia, the Fugitive Slave Act, and a declaration, that thenceforth a State applying for admission into the Union should be admitted with or without Slavery, as its Constitution might prescribe. The only *Territorial* provisions of the Compromise related to New Mexico and Utah. No measures were proposed, no principles affirmed, in relation to any other Territories. Oregon had received a Government in 1848; the condition of the territory North of 36 deg. 30 min., east of the Rocky Mountains, had been settled by the act admitting Missouri into the Union in 1820. Nobody dreamed that the Compromise had anything to do with either: it is notorious that it had nothing to do with either. The report drags them within its scope, simply to secure a pretext for re affirming in the Nebraska bill, the Pro-Slavery declaration of the Compromise.

Nor is it less deceptious when it undertakes to assimilate the condition of newly-acquired Mexican Territories in 1850, with that of Nebraska in 1853. American Law had not been extended over those Territories. The law excluding Slavery had been enacted while they were a portion of Mexico. The questions arose—Did this law continue in force after their annexation? Was it abrogated by their separation from the Sovereign Power that had enacted it? Was it abrogated by the Constitution of the United States? These questions were debated with great vehemence; and so nearly equal was the division of opinion, that the Anti-Slavery party, which for a time was in fact in the ascendant, insisted that, to prevent all danger, and settle the condition of the Territories once for all, it was the duty of Congress to provide by positive enactment against the existence of Slavery therein.

But, no such questions have arisen, or could arise, in relation to Nebraska. It is a part of the Territory acquired from France, and its condition as it respects Slavery has been settled, by American Law, for an entire generation. There were dreamers, at times, who questioned *theoretically* the validity of that Law: nobody ever made a practical question on this point. It has been the universal understanding that the condition of this Territory is fixed. In no respect, then, can the circumstances of Nebraska now be compared with those of New Mexico and Utah in 1850, so that the inference that the bill to organize the former should be framed like those under which the latter were organized is clearly illogical and impertinent.

For the first time in the legislation of this country for thirty-three years, the validity of this act of 1820 is brought into question. The report mischievously and groundlessly assumes that there are similar radical and wide-spread differences of opinion in relation to its constitutionality, that prevailed in relation to the validity of the *Mexican* Law excluding Slavery from New Mexico, and that therefore the same Compromise is necessary in relation to Nebraska, that was adopted in 1850. Hence, the bill is framed after the model of the Utah Territorial bill, with its provisions for determining before the courts the question of Personal Liberty!

Is the reader now prepared to understand why we are indignant at this incorporation into the bill of the declaration of the Compromise of 1850, in regard to the future admission of States, although it does not formally and in terms touch the relations of the Territory to Slavery so long as it is a Territory? It is because the doctrines and assumptions of the Report, accompanying the Bill, and the fact that the Bill itself is framed after the model of the Utah Bill, which leaves that Territory without any safeguard against Slavery, constrain us to believe that, whatever may have been the intentions of Mr. Douglas, the Slaveholders propose through this legislative demonstration, should it secure the assent of Congress, to regard the Missouri Compromise Proviso as virtually repealed, and the whole of the Territory north of 36 deg. 30 min. thrown open to Slavery! *We* would not admit that the deceptive bill, even if it pass—which God in his infinite mercy forbid!—had repealed that Compromise, or subverted Freedom in the Territory—but the minions of the Slave Power would take a different view—and, for one, not to the Supreme Court would we trust the adjudication of the question of Personal Liberty arising under such a bill. We mean no disrespect to the members of this Tribunal, but in its decisions in relation to Questions of Slavery, we are constrained to assert that its action has almost uniformly been repugnant to the spirit of Freedom. Law is uncertain; its technicalities open a wide field for construction, in which a large discretion is left to Judges, who cannot plead exemption from Prejudice, Prepossession, the influences of Education, or the insidious workings of Self-Interest. So far as we know, the rule with the Supreme Court, in cases growing out of negro Slavery, has been, to give to Slavery rather than to Liberty the benefit of a doubt. In the case of Dr. Eels, a citizen of Illinois, arraigned and convicted under a State Law on the subject of Fugitives from Service or Labor, the Court held the Law to be valid, although in the famous Prigg case it expressly declared that all State laws on the subject, in aid or in derogation of the owner's right of reclamation, were null and void! We say, plainly, then, that this Nebraska bill, if passed, will open, by its insidious and doubtful provisions, so wide a field for judicial construction, that we should expect to see any Question of Personal Liberty arising under it, decided against Freedom by the Supreme Court.

We appeal to the Representatives of non-slave-holding constituencies in Congress. The great question is submitted to you—a greater you will probably never be called upon to decide—will you permit your constituents, by a species of legislative legerdemain, to be swindled out of the single boon gained from the Missouri Compromise?

The Pro-Slavery part of the "bargain" has been fulfilled to the letter. Under it, Slave States have been organized; but now, when the Anti-Slavery part of the contract is to be carried out, the Slave Power resists, and an Administration under its domination insidiously suggests a plan by which, through Northern votes, it may rob the North of the magnificent heritage, secured for an entire generation, to Freedom. In violation of law, in utter contempt of what the youth of our country have been taught to consider a solemn covenant, the vast Territory above 36 deg. 30 min., and beyond Iowa, is to be thrown open to Slavery, so that a cordon of slaveholding States may be drawn round the Free West. The poor emigrant from the Slave States, the landless Yankee, the impoverished foreigner, fleeing for refuge to our shores, have hitherto rejoiced that they might find a home in the *Free,* rich, and unoccupied territory of the Union, where, safe from Want, exempt from degrading competition with Slave Labor, away from the rich man's scorn, and the grinding of oppression, they could rear their children in republican simplicity, and build up new States, exemplifying Democratic institutions in all their purity. But the Slavery propagandists, in their mad passion for Negro Slavery, and the political power they manufacture out of it, would shut them out from all this broad domain, and cover it, as they have covered the fertile plains of the South, with plantations of overgrown landlords, and hordes of squalid slaves.

Kill that nefarious Bill, or it will give the Slave Power an ascendency in this country, the terrible results of which no mind can fathom. Let the House of Representatives rally: away with all contemptible bickerings about "Hards" and "Softs;" let us have no more flummery about Baltimore platforms, and the wonderful virtues of the Compromise of 1850 in allaying sectional strife; let us cease to wrangle about the claims of demagogues to the Presidential succession. Give us a simple Bill for the organization of a Territorial Government over Nebraska, omitting any impertinent reference to the issues of 1850, or any premature declarations respecting States to be organized out of it; but, if there must be a reference to Slavery, let it be made in the language of the Proviso of the Missouri Act of 1820, which has always shielded it against Slavery, and the efficacy of which has never before been drawn in question.

THE WASHINGTON UNION ON COALITIONS.

The Washington *Union* of the 30th ult. has a long editorial, in reply to an article in the *National Intelligencer,* on "Political Fusion in Massachusetts." The last-named journal had remarked that the recent victory of the Conservatives in that State was the more gratifying because it had been achieved over "the *combined forces of the Democracy and Free-Soilers*"—a combination which has maintained the control of the State Government for the last three years, and of which it adds—"*We doubt whether there ever existed, for political purposes, a more exceptionable union of parties.*"

The *Union* asserts that every man who pretends "to accurate political information will see that" the first statement in italics "is a falsehood." "Every man of accurate political information" knows it to be true. Charles Sumner holds his seat in the Senate of the United States in virtue of that Coalition, which also placed Caleb Cushing—now the Attorney General of President Pierce—on the Bench in Massachusetts, and, for the three years preceding the late defeat, divided the State offices between the Democracy and the Free-Soilers, or Independent Democracy. It was that Coalition which carried the bill for the Constitutional Convention, which agreed upon the amendments to the Constitution, and which was overthrown in the late contest, by another Combination—the combination of Conservatism, Rum-ism, Catholicism, and Cushing-ism. Any one of these elements, alone, would have been powerless; combined, they were prevailing. The impertinent edict of Caleb Cushing, sanctioned by the Administration, without breaking up the Coalition, drove off enough of the Hunker Democrats to give the victory to the enemies of a reformed, popularized Constitution, already jeoparded.

The second statement in italics, the *Union* characterizes as "an involuntary error of opinion." It holds that the recent Coalition in the Senate, between Mr. Sumner and Mr. Everett, to prevent the election of the proprietor of the *Union* as Public Printer to that body, was a still more exceptionable combination than that in Massachusetts. And it then proceeds to make large quotations from Mr. Sumner's speeches, in relation to the Compromise and Fugitive Law, to show what a wicked man he is, and how corrupt Mr. Everett must be to coalesce with him. This part of the *Union's* article is, in fact, the main part, and the manifest purpose of it is, not so much to meet any statement of the *Intelligencer,* as to damage Mr. Sumner.

Private interest is a wonderful stimulant to patriotism. This is now the third winter of Mr. Sumner in the Senate, and his voice has often been heard in emphatic condemnation of the Fugitive Law, and of Slavery. The volumes containing his speeches, from which the *Union* quotes, have long been before the public, and received high praise for their literary merits. But the *Union,* until the late election for Public Printer, in which Mr. Sumner of Massachusetts and Mr. Mason of Virginia united in voting for Beverly Tucker, never arraigned him for his sins. Nothing in the columns of that paper could have led the Public to believe that the Massachusetts Senator had ever given utterance to any damnable heresies. Mr. Sumner, however, having exercised his right as an independent Senator, in voting against the proprietor of the *Union,* all at once the *Union* discovers that he holds very atrocious and infamous sentiments!

But, to the Coalition, so much more exceptionable than that in Massachusetts—a coalition between the ultra Free-Soiler, Charles Sumner, and the Conservative Whig, Edward Everett! Why a coalition? Because the two Senators, without conferring with each other, or proposing any common advantages, happened to prefer Mr. Tucker to Mr. Armstrong for Public Printer! Is the *Union* stone blind? Mr. BRIGHT, a leading member of the Democratic Party, was the leader, if we understand it, in urging the claims of Mr. Tucker. If Mr. Sumner voted for that gentleman, in company with Mr. EVERETT, he found himself also in company with Messrs. MASON and HUNTER, of Virginia, and with seven other stanch Democratic Senators. What an awful coalition—Mr. Mason, the author of the Fugitive Slave Act, Mr. Sumner, its unsparing denunciator, voting together!

The denunciation, by the *Union,* of Mr. Everett, for a corrupt coalition with Mr. Sumner, for a reason which, if admitted to be valid, would sustain the charge of a foul coalition between Mr. Mason and Mr. Sumner, is simply a ridiculous *faux pas.* Not so, however, its treatment of the speeches of the Massachusetts Senator. Here, there is no blundering, but gross and apparently deliberate injustice. After having made a large quotation in which Mr. Sumner execrates the Fugitive Slave Act about as vehemently as some of the coadjutors of the editor of the *Union,* in Nashville Convention times, execrated the Union of these States, that paper proceeds:

"Again, in the same speech, speaking of the man who is called upon to execute the Fugitive Slave Law—and it makes no difference whether he be judge or magistrate—Mr. Sumner says:

"'The contempt, the indignation, the abhorrence of the community shall be our weapons of offence (against him;) wherever he moves, he shall find no house to receive him, no table spread to nourish him, no welcome to cheer him. The dismal lot of the Roman exile shall be his: He shall be a wanderer, without roof, fire, or water. Men shall point at him in the streets and on the highways. The villages, towns, and cities, shall refuse to receive THE MONSTER; THEY SHALL VOMIT HIM FORTH, NEVER AGAIN TO DISTURB THE PEACE OF OUR COMMUNITY.'

"What must the members of the Supreme Court of the United States say to such language!"

If gross misrepresentation were *libel,* they would say that the editor of the *Union* was guilty of a flagrant libel. The whole of this invective of Mr. Sumner is directed against the "SLAVE HUNTER," and not against the man—"judge or magistrate"—called upon to execute the law. This the *Union,* if it read the speech from which it quotes, must have known.

We transcribe the passage entire, as it stands in volume 2d, page 408, of the same edition of Sumner's Orations and Speeches from which the *Union* professes to quote.

"From a humane, just, and religious people, shall spring a Public Opinion, to keep perpetual guard over the liberties of all within our borders. Nay, more, the flaming sword of the cherubim at the gates of Paradise, turning on every side, it shall prevent any SLAVE HUNTER from ever setting foot in this Commonwealth. Elsewhere he may pursue his human prey; he may employ his congenial bloodhounds, and exult in his successful game. But into Massachusetts he must not come. And yet again I say, I counsel no violence. I would not touch his person. Not with whips and thongs would I scourge him from the land; the contempt, the indignation, the abhorrence of the community, shall be our weapons of offence. Wherever he moves, he shall find no house to receive him—no table spread to nourish him—no welcome to cheer him. The dismal lot of the Roman exile shall be his. He shall be a wanderer, without *roof, fire,* or *water.* Men shall point at him on the streets and on the highways.

"Sleep shall neither night nor day
Hang upon his pent-house lid;
He shall live a man forbid.
Weary seven nights nine times nine,
Shall he dwindle, peak, and pine."

"The villages, towns, and cities, shall refuse to receive the monster; they shall vomit him forth, never again to disturb the repose of the community."

From all which it appears, that Mr. Sumner has not much more liking for a *Slave Hunter* than many Southern gentlemen. Recollect, all this invective is directed against the *Slave Hunter*—the words in the volume being printed in large capitals—and yet the *Union* suppresses this fact, omits the portion of the extract in which *Slave Hunter* is expressly named, and says explicitly that Mr. Sumner is speaking of "the man called upon to execute" the law, "whether he be judge or magistrate!"

The very next paragraph to this invective shows so clearly the meaning of Mr. Sumner, that it seems impossible to excuse the *Union* on the score of ignorance. "The feelings," he says, "with which we regard the Slave Hunter, will soon be extended also to all mercenary agents and heartless minions, who, *without any positive obligation of law,* become a part of his pack. They are *volunteers,* and, *as such,* should share the ignominy of the Chief Hunter."

No one can fail to see that the subjects of denunciation in both passages are, not those who are under "positive obligation of law" to interfere, but mere *volunteer* slave-catchers. But to exclude all cavil, and expose fully the grossness of the misrepresentation of the *Union,* we extract from the same speech, from page 405 of the same volume, precisely what Mr. Sumner did say of those "called upon to execute the law, whether judge or magistrate."

"Did the same spirit which inspired the fathers inspire our country now, the marshals—and every *magistrate* who regarded this law as having any constitutional sanction—*would resign,* rather than presume to execute it. This, however, is too much to expect from all at present. But *I will not judge them. To their own consciences I will leave them.* Surely, no person of humane feelings, and with any true sense of justice—living in a land 'where bells have tolled to church,' whatever may be the apology of public station, can fail to recoil from such service."

Now, remember, the *Union,* in full view of this discrimination, which Mr. Sumner draws between those who are called, and those who are not called upon to execute the laws—between the Magistrate and the Slave Hunter—represents the vehement invective hurled against the latter, as having been aimed at the former, carefully omitting from its quotations anything which would lead to a knowledge, or even suspicion of the Truth, as it is!

THE UNITED STATES AND MEXICO.—A despatch from this city is published in various Northern papers, which states that a treaty with Mexico has been negotiated by General Gadsden, and is now before the President, the first article of which provides that Mexico shall give to the United States such a boundary as will enable us to protect her from the incursions of the frontier Indians; the second provides for a right of way for a railroad to the Pacific, "as a means of forming a commercial barrier against the attacks of the Indians;" the third provides for an abrogation of the section of the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo which guaranties the defence of the frontier in consideration of money given, which is to be in full of all past depredations; the fourth provides for the specific enforcement of the Tehuantepec right of way; and the fifth contains an alternative proposition to the second article, to the effect that Mexico shall cede to the United States a boundary which will include the route known in Lieutenant Parke's map as "Lieut. Col. Cooke's wagon route," extending nearly to the 31st parallel, and going due west, so as to give us a large accession of territory, and taking in the whole of the peninsula of Lower California, including Sonora, upon the payment by the U. States to Mexico of fifty millions of dollars.

Doubt is thrown upon this statement by other writers, but we are inclined to think there is some at least plausible basis for it.

ELIHU BURRITT.—This learned and eloquent gentleman is doing a good work in persisting with his ocean-penny-postage project, and an occasional word for the cause of peace and arbitration stipulations in treaties; but, now that he is on this side of the Atlantic again, we think the people of many of our cities would be gratified to hear him in their public halls upon these and other topics also.

☞ "Could they [the Pope and his Nuncio, Bedini] catch me in the Roman territories, doing my duty as a minister of the Gospel," "they would instantly consign me to a felon's cell." Thus spoke the Rev. Dr. Mandeville, whom the Governor of New York recently invited, with others, to his house, (without apprizing him of the purpose,) to render homage to the Nuncio and his suite in canonical regimentals. We venture the opinion, that before this Bedini shall be a year gone from our shores, many of those who now flatter him with their attentions, will be reluctant to confess the fact. We speak of Bedini, not as a *Catholic,* but as an enemy to the cause of Freedom in Europe.

* Hildreth's History of the United States, second series, vol 3d, page 693.

THE "LIBERAL POLICY."

"Our exchange list is so overgrown that we are compelled to cut it down. The prospectus for general use has been standing in the *Era* for two or three weeks. By publishing this, so that it will attract attention, or by giving such an abstract and notice of it as shall bring the *Era* fairly before their readers, they will entitle themselves to an exchange. If they choose to do this, we shall recognise their claim to the *Era* for one year. Some publishers prefer to pay a difference of one dollar on the exchange."

We take the above from the *National Era* of the 8th ult. It is *required* of all country papers to publish a long prospectus of that paper to *entitle* them to an exchange, or to pay one dollar a year for the honor and privilege of receiving that superior paper. Now, the *Era* is a good paper—everybody knows that; its editor is a man of talent, and a firm advocate of Truth and Right—everybody knows that, too; but we do not consider it worthy of such homage from us. Had it been asked of us, as a matter of courtesy, to publish the prospectus, we should have been happy to have done so; but we will not play second fiddle for the *Era*, or any other paper. When we publish a prospectus, we generally do it upon the same terms as other advertisements.

Weekly Sparta Journal.

Is the editor of the *Journal* aware that the paragraph purporting to be quoted from the *Era* never appeared in that form in the *Era*? Where did he find such a quotation? What we did say appeared in the *Era* of December 8th, and was this:

☞ OUR EXCHANGE LIST is so overgrown that we are compelled to cut it down. We cannot afford, of course, to exchange with a thousand or two papers. Some editors print a short prospectus, which was intended for the use of our voluntary agents; they print this, too, in some obscure corner, and without even calling attention to it, and then claim an exchange. As we have never requested them to do anything of the sort, they will please excuse us for not complying with the request.

The prospectus for general use has been standing in the *Era* for two or three weeks. By publishing this, so that it will attract attention, or by giving such an abstract and notice of it as shall bring the *Era* fairly before their readers, they will entitle themselves to an exchange. We do not ask this, for we are desirous to keep our exchanges within moderate limits; but if they choose to do so, we shall recognise their claim to the *Era* for one year. Some publishers prefer to pay a difference of one dollar on the exchange.

We intend nothing offensive to any of our cotemporaries, nor would we intimate that the *Era* is superior in merit to their papers; but their own experience will show them the necessity of fixing some limitation upon these editorial courtesies.

A very different thing this, from the offensive paragraph attributed to us. Again, let us say, once for all, that we have never made it a condition to exchange with any Free Democratic paper, that it should publish our Prospectus, or notice the *Era* in any way; and that, if an exchange is not kept up with every such paper, it is entirely from inadvertence, not intention. As this is the fourth time, within a few weeks, that we have been misrepresented, may we ask the Free Democratic Press to print this last paragraph?

POSTAGE MATTERS.

The Law reducing the rates of postage on newspapers was passed August, 1852, and has now been in operation nearly a year and a half—long enough, it might be supposed, for postmasters to understand it. And yet, we presume, every man who sends or receives a newspaper through the mail, suffers more or less annoyance from their misunderstanding.

The part of the Law most frequently misconstrued is that which fixes the rate on newspapers of ordinary weight at half a cent, if paid in advance. A few weeks ago, a subscriber to our Weekly in Northern Ohio wrote to us that the postmaster was in the habit of charging a *cent* on newspapers, unless paid in advance at the office *where they were mailed.* Later still, from another office in Southern Ohio, where we have a large list of subscribers, we received word that a *cent* postage was exacted, because the papers were not prepaid at the office in which they are *mailed.* These are but examples of the frequent vexations to which publishers and subscribers are subjected.

Again and again, and for the fortieth time, we say, that by the Law of August, 1852, and by the Instructions of the Postmaster General, the pre-payment on newspapers *may be made at either the office of* MAILING *or* DELIVERY, *at the option of the subscriber.* By the Law and by the Instructions, Postmasters *have no right to charge more than half a cent, if the subscriber chooses to pay one quarter's postage in advance, at the office where he* RECEIVES *his paper.*

A few days since, we were furnished from the General Post Office Department with a printed copy of the Law and the Instructions. We copy, first from the Law, passed August 30th, 1852:

"Each newspaper, periodical, unsealed circular, or other article of printed matter, not exceeding three ounces in weight, shall be sent to any part of the United States for one cent; and for every additional ounce, or fraction of an ounce, one cent additional shall be charged; and where the postage upon any newspaper or periodical is paid *quarterly or yearly in advance at the office where the said periodical or newspaper is* DELIVERED, *or is paid yearly or quarterly in advance at the office where the same is* MAILED, and evidence of such payment is furnished at the office of delivery in such manner as the Post Office Department shall by general regulations prescribe, one-half of said rates only shall be charged."

How can any man with common sense mis understand this? (We place in italics and capitals the portions of the Law which are conclusive.)

We copy next from the printed Instructions on page 8 of the pamphlet:

"6th. Quarterly payments in advance may be made *either at the mailing office or the office of delivery.* When made at such mailing office, at the commencement of a year or of a quarter, (as he may elect,) the publisher must prepare and hand to the postmaster, ready for signature, a receipt for each post office to which the papers are to be sent for delivery—stating the number of papers to be sent to such post office, and the amount of postage to be paid thereon; also, giving the names of each of the subscribers. Upon the payment of the postage, the receipts must be signed by the postmaster at the mailing office. The publisher will then direct such receipts to the postmasters at the offices of delivery, and they will be received there as evidence that the postage has been duly paid. To entitle them to pass *free* through the mails, such receipts must be left unsealed, endorsed "Post Office Business," and directed to the postmaster at the office of delivery. The postmasters to whom such receipts have been sent, will be thereby authorized to deliver the papers mentioned in such receipts to the subscribers therein named, without further charge for postage.

"When periodicals are printed not oftener than once a quarter and are sent from the office of publication to actual subscribers, the amount of postage being marked thereon as pre-paid at the mailing office, and the name of that office with the date of mailing being written or stamped thereon, will be sufficient evidence to warrant their delivery without further charge—*such* periodicals may be pre-paid by stamps."

Here again, it is seen, that the subscriber has his choice, either to pay in advance at the office of *mailing* or *delivery.*

It sometimes happens that a subscriber, having paid his postage three months or a year in advance, at the office of delivery, is charged fresh postage, should a new Postmaster be appointed. This is another and serious vexation, to which we lately called the attention of the Post Office Department. Instructions were at once issued to remedy the evil. These instructions are to the effect, that Postmasters collecting postage on the reduced rate, in advance, are entitled to the commission, although they may be turned out of office the next day; and the papers also must be delivered, free of postage, during the time for which they are prepaid. A subscriber, claiming to have paid yearly in advance to the former Postmaster, must satisfy the new incumbent by exhibiting the receipt of such former Postmaster, or other satisfactory evidence, that the aforesaid payment has been fully made, and that it was made whilst he was in office. In keeping the account of such paper, the succeeding Postmaster must enter them in his quarterly return; but instead of charging himself with the amount, he should make a mem r rcum, to the effect that they had been ac n ed for in a previous quarter. According to the instructions, pre-payment at the reduced rate cannot be made for a less time than three months.

We hope this statement will be found explicit. Let our subscribers preserve it, and if subjected to any such annoyances as we have named, submit it to the Postmaster, and if he remain unconvinced, we trust they will let us know.

MITIGATION OF THE SLAVE CODE.

The following bill, in relation to the sale and division of slave mothers from their children, is now before the Legislature of Georgia:

"SEC. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Georgia, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that the children not exceeding five years of age, of any woman slave, and such woman slave, shall not be separately sold, or exposed to sale under execution or other legal process, order, or decree, or at any sale made by an executor, administrator, guardian, or other trustee, nor shall they be separated in any division made by any executor, administrator, guardian, or other trustee, but shall be placed together, in one of the parts into which the estate to which they belong is to be divided, unless such division cannot in any wise be effected without such separation.

"SEC. 2. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that by consent of the ordinary, slaves living in a different county from a deceased owner may be sold in the county in which said slaves may reside, upon application being made for such purpose.

"SEC. 3. And be it further enacted, that all laws and parts of laws militating against this act, be and the same are hereby repealed."

This proposition serves to bring more distinctly to light, what we all know, that under the Slave Code, as it exists in Georgia, children of any age, mere infants at the breast, may be forever separated from their mothers; and that this cruelty is too often practiced is proved by the attempt to prevent it. Were not the evil such as to call for remedy, no bill of the kind would be introduced. At best, it is a small concession to humanity—a proposition to prevent children *under five years of age*, from being separated from their mothers! Children over five, are not to be the subjects of such benevolence!

It were well if the Legislature of Georgia would modify the bill, so as to embody in it the recommendations of the Governor of Alabama in his late annual message. These we have already published, but so important do we regard them, that we again solicit attention to them:

"The Code very properly provides that slave children of tender years shall, at judicial and some other sales, be offered with their mothers, where the defendant in execution, &c., is the owner both of the mother and children; and that, at such sales, slaves must be offered, and, if practicable, sold in families. But it is allowable for either of the parties in interest to impair, to a great extent, these very salutary enactments. These provisions, in my judgment, should be absolute, at least as it respects mothers, and children of ten years of age and under, and husband and wife, where the latter relation is admitted by the owner of the slaves. These are relations which moral duty requires us to respect, and it can be no violation of policy to conform municipal law to good morals. It is universally conceded that slaves are reasonable beings—with the moral feelings, it is true, often obtuse, but susceptible of improvement. The husband and wife generally cherish affection for each other, and the mutual attachments of mother and child are usually strong. The mother is not always a wise counsellor; but she must be presumed to be the most constant and sincere the child has. Let, then, the latter enjoy this parental oversight during childhood, that it may be the better prepared by good principles and industrious habits to act its part afterwards."

However far short these views fall of the standard of Right, still they manifest a respect for relations, sacred in themselves, but which the Slave Code has always ruthlessly disregarded. The Governor would have the law *make the marriage relation indissoluble, and the parties to it inseparable*, when it has once been admitted by the master. He would have the law to provide absolutely against the separation of children under ten from their mothers, and that where families of slaves are sold, they shall be sold together. He asserts the *Humanity* of the slaves, and the sacredness of the *Family relations.*

"These are relations," he adds, "which moral duty requires us to respect, and *it can be no violation of policy to conform municipal law to good morals.*"

We hail such sentiments, emanating from the Governor of a slaveholding State. He gives utterance, we doubt not, to opinions quite prevalent among the more intelligent classes of the Sou h. The *Raleigh Register* (Raleigh, N. C.) cordially responds to his recommendations, remarking:

"This proposition of the Governor of Alabama will be responded to by every humane breast. It is an important movement, in the right quarter, coincident in spirit with that which pervades the address of the Southern Agricultural Association, which we published a few weeks since.

"The general adoption of this humane recommendation by the Southern States would prove the wisest and most efficient defensive measure against the assaults of Abolitionism that has ever been conceived of. The abuses of Slavery, or certain unessential though bad features of the system, have given a point and force to the attacks of its enemies, which ameliorations such as are suggested by Governor Collier would render harmless.

"We are firmly convinced that these salutary reforms will go far to remove Northern prejudices against Southern expansion, where it can take place consistently with the rights of other nations."

It is perfectly immaterial to us, whether the buying and selling of slaves, separation of slave families, denial to slaves of the means of education, &c., &c., be regarded in the South as abuses of the system, or not, provided the law interfere to correct them. Let what the *South* regards as the *abuses*, and *we*, the *essentials* of Slavery, be remedied, and Abolitionism will have nothing to do.

THE ISLAND OF CUBA.—Two proclamations lately issued by the Captain General of Cuba, are described as declaring—the first, the Freedom of the emancipadoes found on the various prizes made prior to the year 1835, alleging that they are at liberty to serve any master they please, at wages not less than six dollars per month for each male, and four dollars per month for each female, subject to a deduction to indemnify the master for freeing him or her; and the other denouncing the foreign slave trade, and closing with an authority for the introduction of free laborers, consisting of Indians, Asiatics, and Spaniards.

LITERARY NOTICES.

THE CONFLICT OF AGES. By Edward Beecher, D. D. Third edition. Boston: Phillips, Samson, & Co. For sale by Gray & Ballantyne, 7th street, Washington, D. C. 1 volume, pp. 552.

This work has caused a great commotion among the Doctors of Theology in our land. Dr. Beecher has ventured to solve the enigma of all ages, in the grand debate, which Milton has told us, first began in the regions of the damned, where he says, (Book II, Paradise Lost)—

"Others sat apart, on a hill retired,
In thoughts more elevate, and reason'd high
Of Providence, Foreknowledge, Will, and Fate,
Fixed Fate, Free Will, Foreknowledge absolute,
And found no end in wandering mazes lost."

The author deems it in his power to shed light upon the great debate of "The Moral Relations of God and Man." It is a grand enterprise, and the author of this volume has entered upon it in the maturity and strength of manhood, after years of accumulated intellectual wealth, evidence of all which pervades this work. We shall not presume to decide the question whether the solution is successful or not; we leave it to the conflict of minds whose business it is, and whose duty it is, to contend earnestly for the faith delivered to the Church of God in the revelations of God—in His Word and in His Works. There is but one God; and his revelations, however made—in Providence, in Creation, or in Revelation—must, if we can attain to the entirety of truth, agree. Doctor Beecher believes he has attained to a desired end, and we hope to see his book read, and his arguments fairly met. He does not raise a man of straw, to show the vigor of his arm in knocking it over. Witness the opening of Chapter V, where he says—

"The first point of attack has ever been, as we have already stated, the doctrine of the existence, in a new-created being, of a sinful nature, for which he is liable to a just punishment, and that anterior to any knowledge, will, or choice, of his own. How, is it asked, can it be honorable or right for God so to deal with any new-created being? To this question, no one has ever been able to give any more satisfactory reply than those we have considered. * * * Doctor Woods takes distinctly the ground of mere faith and mystery; that is, he comes distinctly to the conclusion that it cannot be vindicated on any principles of honor and right known to the human mind." We remember, from infancy, how often we puzzled our tiny brains with the famous distich—

"In Adam's fall
We sinned all."

And in this, we doubt not, the readers of this notice have all sympathized. Certainly, those who were indoctrinated into the depths of mysteries opened to the children of New England in the once famous "New England Primer."

Dr. Beecher thinks he has hit the egg upon the end, in reviving the old Grecian notion of a pre-existent state of the soul. He says, page 489, chapter xv—

"I allege, then, 1. That a system based on pre existence is the only one which admits and requires such principles as explain what the Church of God is, and develops a system centering in God and the Church, according to the Scriptures.

"2. It is the only system which demands, or even allows, of a natural and consistent development of that view of God which is peculiar to the Scriptures," &c.

Of these postulates there are eleven. We have quoted only of the two first.

We hope the answers to this new theory may be as Christian in their temper, and by men as thoroughly fitted for the task, as the author of the "Conflict of Ages." If so, good, and only good, will result from this new conflict of mind with mind. We confess to our apprehensions, the foundation-stone of stones of stumbling is not yet reached; and this is the origin of sin. Sir Christopher Wren, when asked how the drop-ceiling of Westminster Hall was constructed, and if he could not build a roof like it, replied, "Tell me how one of those drops is maintained in its place, and I will erect another roof like this." The existence of sin under the government of a God, infinite in power and goodness, is the last difficulty to be met, and it matters not to most minds whether the stones of stumbling reach high as an Egyptian pyramid, or a few courses of stone above the desert waste. The chain of causes reaches from the throne of the Infinite, and is buried in the ocean of the unknown eternity, and most minds rest just where Abraham's mind found firm standing, when he said: "That be far from thee, to slay the righteous with the wicked; and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from the. *Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right!*"

In conclusion, this is a work which merits the attention of Doctors of Divinity, most learned, most laborious, and most Christian. To their hands we commend it, well convinced from a discussion of such minds, truth, if not eliminated, at least new expressions of love and sympathy will be, to the edification of the Church militant and the conservation of the truths of Christianity, as received by the great body of Protestant churches. W.

BUSY MOMENTS OF AN IDLE WOMAN. New York: Appleton & Co. For sale by Robert Farnham, Washington, D. C. 1 vol., pp. 285.

This fanciful little book has beguiled us of busy hours, so winning have we found it. The tales are: "Edith;" "An Every-day Life;" "The Widow;" "Old Maidism *vs.* Marriage;" "An Episode in the Life of a Woman of Fashion." W.

LECTURES TO YOUNG MEN. By W. G. Eliot, pastor of the Church of the Messiah, St. Louis. 1 vol., pp. 190. Crosby, Nichols, & Co, Boston.

LECTURES ON THE FORMATION OF CHARACTER OF YOUNG MEN. By Rev. Rufus W. Clark. Boston: John C. Jewett & Co. 1 vol., pp. 379.

The above are sold by Gray & Ballantyne, of Washington. We have carefully examined these volumes. They are worthy of all acceptation. We hope every Young Men's Christian Association may place duplicate copies, if not a dozen, in all their libraries.

Mr. Eliot is a native of Washington, and Mr. Clark was for a time the Minister of the Four-and-a-half street Presbyterian Church. In Washington these gentlemen are greatly respected for their piety and well-known talents; both have appeared before the public as authors of works which have been well received. The lecture on "Leisure Time," by Mr. Eliot, and the chapter on "Pernicious Literature," by Mr. Clark, we read with especial interest. W.

MINNESOTA, AND ITS RESOURCES. By J. W. Bond. New York: Redfield & Co. For sale by Taylor & Maury, Pa. avenue, Washington, D. C. 1 volume, pp. 364.

This new Territory is to shine forth with the splendors of a new-risen sun, "which as a bridegroom cometh out of his chambers to run a race," and a race which will soon distance, in population, wealth, and power, those old fogy States situated nearer the Atlantic than the Pacific ocean, and who were young grooms a century since. But, seriously, this volume, devoted to this new Territory, is of special interest to all who hope for the growth of free opinions with the growth of new free States. We believe every State which will be henceforth admitted will be an increase to the power of Freedom, and that the influence of these coming future States will be felt for the advancement of liberty and religion—a religion founded upon the Bible, as the only rule of Faith and Practice, and freedom based on the Bible and the Declaration of Independence, read by brave men and women, who are as incapable of the refinements of modern statesmanship and divinity as they are of adopting the latest Parisian modes of dress and manners, in which what is gained in grace is lost in honesty, manliness, and virtue. W.

FAR OFF; or, Asia and Australia Described, with Anecdotes and Illustrations. By the author of "The Peep-of-Day." 1 vol.: Carter & Brothers, New York. For sale by Gray & Ballantyne.

This is a very nice little book, full of interesting geographical history, illustrated with wood-cuts. If the children of the present and coming generations are not wiser than their fathers, it will not be for want of instructive books. W.

THE BOURBON PRINCE.

THE HISTORY OF THE ROYAL DAUPHIN, LOUIS XVII, OF FRANCE. For sale by Franck Taylor, Penn. avenue, Washington, D. C.

In his preface, the author says: "This little book has been derived from the large French work of De Beauchesne—*Louis XVII, la Vie son Agonie la Mort.* The object of the writer has been to present, in a condensed and popular form, that portion of the elaborate volumes of the French author which bears directly upon the personal history of the Dauphin, so that the reader might have in its unity, unencumbered with unnecessary historical detail, the life of the young Prince."

The writer also states, in his preface, that he accepts the death of the Dauphin as an historical fact, established by the full, minute, and well-considered testimony of De Beauchesne, beyond any chance of doubt on the part of the intelligent and honest, and even of cavil from the skeptical and disputatious.

We entirely dissent from the author in his view of Beauchesne's work, which we have read; and, after a careful examination of the details which he thinks unnecessary to the history of the Dauphin's imprisonment, we came to just the opposite conclusion to that arrived at by him. We do not think that there is a particle of evidence of the Dauphin's death in the book. That some child died, is tolerably clear; but we do not know that it was the Dauphin. We are the more willing to trust our impressions on this point, from the fact that when we read Beauchesne's book, we were entirely unbiased, not having read a word of the newspaper discussions of the day on the subject, and feeling no interest in the case, except as a matter of history. Rumor says that Hanson's book upon this subject is conclusive, and that he disposes of Beauchesne's testimony in a masterly and entirely satisfactory manner.

AN ELOQUENT SPEECH.

During the discussion of the resolutions in commendation of the conduct of Capt. Ingraham, at Smyrna, in the House of Representatives yesterday, the Hon. Gerrit Smith, of New York, rose and said:

Perhaps, Mr. Speaker, I should not have presumed to rise, had I been duly influenced by what the gentleman from Alabama has just now told us of the characteristics of a statesman. For, in that gentleman's esteem, the heart does not enter into the composition of a statesman. With him, the statesman is a creature all head, and no heart. With me, on the contrary, the heart is of more account than the head—and that, too, in all the possible circumstances of life, including even the province of statesmanship. A higher authority than the gentleman from Alabama makes more of the heart than of the head. His command, as well upon the statesman as upon every other person, is, "My son, give me thine heart." The heart first, and the head afterwards. The faculties of man drive on but to mischief and ruin, unless the heart be first given to the right and the true.

I find, that gentlemen of Alabama agree in their definition of a statesman. Another gentleman from that State, [Mr. Phillips,] when reviewing my speech, a fortnight ago, kindly informed me that I am but a sentimentalist, and not a statesman. To use almost precisely his words: "Though I had attained some notoriety in the country as a sentimentalist, I had never risen to the dignity of a statesman." I beg that gentleman to be patient with me. I may yet become the dignified, heartless, frigid, conventional sort of being, that makes up the accepted and current idea of a statesman. They say, that Congress is a capital place for making a statesman of one, who is willing to come under the process. They say so, for the reason that Congress is a capital place for getting rid of all sentiment, and sympathy, and conscience. Now, I cannot say that I am very ambitious to have realized, in my own person, the popular idea of a statesman. Nevertheless, I beg the gentleman to be patient with me. When I shall have been in Congress a few weeks longer, I may so far have lost my heart, and killed my soul, as to be a candidate for the honors of a statesman. And then the honorable gentleman will, no doubt, be willing to take me by his own right hand, and install me into that dignity which he and other statesmen so self-complacently enjoy.

But to come to the resolutions. I like them exceedingly; and I should rejoice to see them pass unanimously. I like them exceedingly, and especially because they avoid all questions of nationality and citizenship; and leave the justification of Capt. Ingraham to rest on the naked ground of humanity. I was much pleased to find the distinguished gentlemen from Virginia and South Carolina, [Mr. Bayly and Mr. Orr,] defending the resolutions in this light. Delighted was I, when I heard the gentleman from South Carolina [Mr. Orr] declare, in such impassioned language, that humanity is, of itself, ample justification for Captain Ingraham's conduct.

Capt. Ingraham, according to the implication of the resolutions, and according to these gentlemen's interpretation and defence of the resolutions, obeyed the simple law of humanity—that law, against which, to use Bible language, "there is no law." Not only is it paramount law, but against it there can be no law. Capt. Ingraham recognised no law for kidnapping and oppressing his fellow man. He believed that law is for the protection of rights, and he would not acknowledge as law what was for the destruction of rights; and, therefore, without pausing to inquire into any enactments of Turkey or Austria, he generously and nobly surrendered himself to the commands of the law of humanity, and delivered Koszta.

Capt. Ingraham saw in Koszta *a man*—a kidnapped and oppressed man—and, therefore, he determined to set him free. The manhood of Koszta was all the warrant that Captain Ingraham needed to demand the liberty of Koszta. Captain Ingraham's sympathies are not bounded by State or National lines. They are not controlled by questions of nationality and citizenship; but where he sees his brother kidnapped or outraged, thither does he let his sympathies go out effectively for the deliverance of such brother.

I was glad, sir, to hear the gentleman from Pennsylvania, [Mr. Chandler,] in the course of his eloquent speech, quote the maxim "*Bis dat qui cito dat,*" (he gives twice who gives quick,) to incite us to the prompt passage of the resolution. Well does Captain Ingraham deserve the benefit of this apposite and happy quotation, for he acted bravely and beautifully under the inspiration, if not of another Latin maxim, nevertheless of the sentiment of another Latin maxim: "*Nil humani a me alienum,*" (nothing that concerns man is foreign to me.) Yes, Captain Ingraham honored this sublime maxim, which was coined by a slave; for Terence, its high-souled author, was a Roman slave.

Pass these resolutions, Mr. Speaker—pass them promptly and unanimously. By doing so we shall honor humanity and honor ourselves; by doing so we shall rebuke our Government for having taken, three years ago, the diabolical position, that they who rescue their kidnapped, and oppressed, and outraged, and crushed brethren, merit, at the hands of this Government, fines and imprisonment. Pass these resolutions, and you will put the seal of your emphatic condemnation on that diabolical position; and you will cheer the hearts of those who have rescued such poor brethren, and of others who are determined to rescue them whenever they can get the opportunity to do so. Pass these resolutions; and these past and these future rescuers of the most wronged of all men will rejoice in knowing, that upon the principle of these resolutions, and upon the principle by which some on this floor have advocated them, they are entitled, not to suffer fines and imprisonment, but to receive gold medals.

THE TERRITORY OF NEBRASKA.

A copy of the Report presented in the Senate on Wednesday, by Mr. Douglas, from the Committee on Territories, in explanation of the bill reported from the same committee for organizing the Territory of Nebraska:

REPORT.

The Committee on Territories, to which was referred a bill for an act to establish the Territory of Nebraska, have given the same that serious and deliberate consideration which its great importance demands, and beg leave to report it back to the Senate, with various amendments, in the form of a substitute for the bill.

The principal amendments which your committee deem it their duty to commend to the favorable action of the Senate, in a special report, are those in which the principles established by the Compromise measures of 1850, so far as they are applicable to Territorial organization, are proposed to be affirmed and carried into practical operation within the limits of the new Territory.

The wisdom of those measures is attested not less by their salutary and beneficial effects in allaying sectional agitation and restoring peace and harmony to an irritated and distracted people, than by the cordial and almost universal approbation with which they have been received and sanctioned by the whole country. In the judgment of your committee, those measures were intended to have a far more comprehensive and enduring effect than the mere adjustment of the difficulties arising out of the recent acquisition of Mexican territory. They were designed to establish certain great principles, which would not only furnish adequate remedies for existing evils, but, in all time to come, avoid the perils of a similar agitation, by withdrawing the question of Slavery from the halls of Congress and the political arena, and committing it to the arbitrament of those who were immediately interested in and alone responsible for its consequences. With the view of conforming their action to what they regard the settled policy of the Government, sanctioned by the approving voice of the American people, your committee have deemed it their duty to incorporate and perpetuate in their Territorial bill the principles and spirit of those measures.

If any other considerations were necessary to render the propriety of this course imperative upon the committee, they may be found in the fact that the Nebraska country occupies the same relative position to the Slavery question as did New Mexico and Utah when those Territories were organized. It was a disputed point whether Slavery was prohibited by law in the country acquired from Mexico. On the one hand, it was contended, as a legal proposition, that Slavery having been prohibited by the enactments of Mexico, according to the laws of nations we received the country with all its local laws and domestic institutions attached to the soil, so far as they did not conflict with the Constitution of the United States; and that a law either protecting or prohibiting Slavery was not repugnant to that instrument, as was evidenced by the fact that one-half of the States of the Union tolerated, while the other half prohibited, the institution of Slavery. On the other hand, it was insisted that, by virtue of the Constitution of the United States, every citizen had a right to remove to any territory of the Union, and carry his property with him, under the protection of law, whether that property consisted in persons or things. The difficulties arising from this diversity of opinion were greatly aggravated by the fact that there were many persons, on both sides of the legal controversy, who were unwilling to abide the decision of the courts on the matters in dispute. Thus, among those who claimed that the Mexican laws were still in force, and consequently that Slavery was already prohibited in those territories by valid enactment, there were many who insisted upon Congress making the matter certain by enacting another prohibition. In like manner, some of those who argued that the Mexican laws had ceased to have any binding force, and that the Constitution tolerated and protected slave property in those territories, were unwilling to trust the decision of the courts upon that point, and insisted that Congress should, by direct enactment, remove all legal obstacles to the introduction of slaves into those territories.

Such being the character of the controversy in respect to the territory acquired from Mexico, a similar question has arisen in regard to the right to hold slaves in the proposed Territory of Nebraska, when the Indian laws shall be withdrawn and the country thrown open to emigration and settlement. By the eighth section of "An act to authorize the people of the Missouri Territory to form a Constitution and State Government, and for the admission of such State into the Union on an original footing with the original States, and to prohibit Slavery in certain Territories," approved March 6, 1820, it was provided, "That in all territory ceded by France to the United States under the name of Louisiana, which lies north of thirty-six degrees and thirty minutes north latitude, not included within the limits of the State contemplated by this act, Slavery and involuntary servitude, otherwise than in the punishment of crimes whereof the parties shall have been duly convicted, shall be, and is hereby, forever prohibited: *Provided, always*, That any person escaping into the same, from whom labor or service is lawfully claimed in any State or Territory of the United States, such fugitive may be lawfully reclaimed and conveyed to the person claiming his or her labor or service as aforesaid."

Under this section, as in the case of the Mexican law in New Mexico and Utah, it is a disputed point whether Slavery is prohibited in the Nebraska country by *valid* enactment. The decision of this question involves the constitutional power of Congress to pass laws prescribing and regulating the domestic institutions of the various Territories of the Union. In the opinion of those eminent statesmen who hold that Congress is invested with no rightful authority to legislate upon the subject of Slavery in the Territories, the eighth section of the act preparatory to the admission of Missouri is null and void; while the prevailing sentiment in a large portion of the Union sustains the doctrine that the Constitution of the United States secures to every citizen an unalienable right to move into any of the Territories with his property, of whatever kind and description, and to hold and enjoy the same under the sanction of law.

Your committee do not feel themselves called upon to enter into the discussion of these controverted questions. They involve the same grave issues which produced the agitation, the sectional strife, and the fearful struggle of 1850. As Congress deemed it wise and prudent to refrain from deciding the matter in controversy then, either by affirming or repealing the Mexican laws, or by an act declaratory of the true intent of the Constitution, and the extent of the protection afforded by it to slave property in the Territories, so your committee are not prepared now to recommend a departure from the course pursued on that memorable occasion, either by affirming or repealing the eighth section of the Missouri act, or by any act declaratory of the meaning of the Constitution in respect to the legal points in dispute. Your committee deem it fortunate for the peace of the country and the security of the Union, that the controversy then resulted in the adoption of the Compromise Measures, which the two great political parties with singular unanimity have affirmed as a cardinal article of their faith, and proclaimed to the world as a final settlement of the controversy, and an end of the agitation. A due respect, therefore, for the avowed opinions of Senators, as well as a proper sense of patriotic duty, enjoin upon your committee the propriety and necessity of a strict adherence to the principles, and even a literal adoption of the enactments, of that adjustment in all their Territorial bills, so far as the same are not locally inapplicable. Those enactments embrace, among other things less material to the matters under consideration, the following provisions:

"When admitted as a State, the said Territory, or any portion of the same, shall be received into the Union with or without Slavery, as their Constitution may prescribe at the time of their admission.

"That the legislative power and authority of said Territory shall be vested in the Governor and a Legislative Assembly.

"That the legislative power of said Territory shall extend to all rightful subjects of legislation consistent with the Constitution of the United States and the provisions of this act; but no law shall be passed interfering with the primary disposal of the soil; no tax shall be imposed upon the property of the United States; nor shall the lands or other property of non-residents be taxed higher than the lands or other property of residents.

"Writs of error and appeals from the final decisions of said supreme court shall be allowed, and may be taken to the Supreme Court of the United States, in the same manner and under the same regulations as from the circuit courts of the United States, where the value of the property or the amount in controversy, to be ascertained by the oath or affirmation of either party, or other competent witness, shall exceed one thousand dollars; except only that in all cases involving title to slaves, the said writ of error or appeals shall be allowed and decided by the said supreme court, without regard to the value of the matter, property, or title in controversy; and except, also, that a writ or appeal shall also be allowed to the Supreme Court of the United States from the decisions of the said supreme court created by this act, or of any judge thereof, or of the district courts created by this act, or of any judge thereof, upon any writ of habeas corpus involving the question of personal freedom; and each of the said district courts shall have and exercise the same jurisdiction, in all cases arising under the Constitution and laws of the United States, as is vested in the circuit and district courts of the United States; and the said supreme and district courts of the said Territory, and the respective judges thereof, shall and may grant writs of habeas corpus in all cases in which the same are granted by the judges of the United States in the District of Columbia."

To which may be added the following proposition, affirmed by the act of 1850, known as the Fugitive Slave Law;

That the provisions of the "act respecting fugitives from justice and persons escaping from the service of their masters," approved February 12, 1793, and the provisions of the "act to amend and supplementary to the aforesaid act, approved September 18, 1850, shall extend to and be in force in all the organized Territories," as well as in the various States of the Union.

From these provisions, it is apparent that the Compromise Measures of 1850 affirm and rest upon the following propositions:

First, that all questions pertaining to Slavery in the Territories, and in the new States to be formed therefrom, are to be left to the decision of the people residing therein, through their proper representatives, to be chosen by them for that purpose.

Second, that "all cases involving titles to slaves" and "questions of personal freedom" are referred to the adjudication of the local tribunals, with the right of appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Third, that the provisions of the Constitution of the United States in respect to fugitives from service are to be carried into faithful execution in all "the organized Territories," the same as in the States.

The substitute for the bill which your committee have prepared, and which is commended to the favorable action of the Senate, proposes to carry these propositions and principles into practical operation, in the precise language of the Compromise Measures of 1850.

CONGRESS.

THIRTY-THIRD CONGRESS—FIRST SESSION.

Senate, Jan. 9, 1854.

The Chair laid before the Senate the report of the Secretary of War, of the expenditures by that Department, made during the year 1853.

Mr. Chase presented the proceedings of a public meeting recently held in Cincinnati, Ohio, relative to the interruption of the mails by the occurrences at Erie, Pa. Referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

Mr. Badger introduced a bill granting a credit for a limited time on the duties on railroad iron imported into the U. States. Referred to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. Bright introduced a bill to establish a court for the examination of claims against the United States.

Mr. Thompson, of Kentucky, introduced a bill to provide for the payment of the claims of certain creditors of the late Republic of Texas.

Mr. Bayard introduced a bill to provide for the execution of the public printing, engraving, and binding.

Mr. Mallory introduced a bill authorizing the establishment of a marine hospital at St. Marks, Florida.

Mr. Mallory introduced a bill granting land to the State of Florida, to aid in the construction of certain railroads in that State.

Mr. Hamlin from the Committee on Printing, reported an order for printing 10,000 additional copies of the Report of the Superintendent of the Coast Survey; which was agreed to.

Mr. Hamlin reported a joint resolution to increase the clerical force in the office of the Superintendent of Public Printing.

Mr. Benjamin submitted a resolution requesting the President to communicate to the Senate copies of all correspondence with the Government of Mexico, concerning the right of way across the Isthmus of Tehauntepec, and, also, all information concerning the action of the Government of Mexico in relation to said right of way, and of any proposed convention on the subject.

Mr. B. expressed his intention to address the Senate on the subject of this right of way, after the debate on the Clayton and Bulwer treaty shall have closed.

The resolution was then agreed to.

Mr. Jones, of Iowa, submitted a resolution calling upon the War Department for a statement of the expenditures made for the improvement of Western rivers and harbors, under the appropriations of 1852. Laid over.

After the transaction of some unimportant business the Senate, at a quarter before one o'clock, adjourned.

House of Representatives, Jan. 9, 1854.

The House stands adjourned from Friday last until to-morrow.

The Canada at Boston—More Battles in the East.

BOSTON, JAN. 6.—The steamer Canada has arrived from Halifax, with the foreign mails.

Russia and Turkey.—The reports of a bloody action near Kalafat are contradicted. The Turks left six thousand men there when they retired to Widdin.

Fort St. Nicholas was taken by surprise, and was accompanied with great slaughter. Out of 1,500 Turks, only 80 escaped.

Five thousand Russian cavalry attacked the Turkish camp at Valee Doogee, but the Turks defeated them, the people joining in the pursuit. The Turks lost one thousand men.

The Sultan had appointed Abdallah Pasha, a Georgian, governor of Georgia.

The Czar had sent an autograph letter to Prince Menchikoff, congratulating him on the victory at Sinope, and saying that the fleet on the Black Sea had shown itself worthy to defend the honor and glory of Russia.

The Czar has given a part of the force on the Danube a furlough until March, the ice rendering operations there impossible till spring.

France.—Only one-half of the grain had arrived in France necessary to make up the deficit in the harvest. The scarcity will be more severely felt about the end of February.

Austria.—There is a deficit in the Austrian budget of fifty millions.

Italy.—The Piedmontese Legislature met on the 19th. The King's speech congratulated the country on its prosperity.

Belgium.—The Minister of Finance has presented to the Chambers the promised bill relative to the foreign code. The bill does not fix the duties, but authorizes the Government to reduce, suspend, or establish them.

Prussia.—The Minister of Commerce has given notice that the treaty of commerce and navigation of September, 1814, concluded between the Zollverein and Belgium, expires with the current year, and that negotiations for its renewal had led to no satisfactory result.

The Erie Railroad War in the U. S. Court at Pittsburg.

PITTSBURG, JAN. 5.—In the U. S. Court today, Judge Irvin heard arguments on the motion to show why John Kirkpatrick and others, citizens of Erie, should not be arrested for contempt of court, in disregarding the injunction granted by the court in the case of the Buffalo State Line Railroad *vs.* The City of Erie.

At the conclusion of the argument, the court ordered "that the said John Kirkpatrick, for said offence, be committed to the jail of Allegheny county, in the western district of Pennsylvania, during the pleasure of said court, or until discharged by due course of law."

The court also issued an order placing the Erie and Northeast road in possession of Marshal Frost, who is directed to enforce the injunction of the Circuit Court of the U. States for the western district of Pennsylvania, in the case of the Buffalo State Line Railroad *vs.* The City of Erie, and others, in chancery; and to report the names of all persons who may interfere with the repairs of the road.

Latest by the Canada—Kossuth gone to Turkey, &c.,

HALIFAX, JAN. 5.—It is stated positively that Kossuth left London for Constantinople on Dec 23.

The Budget of Austria shows a deficiency of 50,000,000 florins.

The population of Russia were kept in constant excitement in thanksgiving for Russian victories by sea and land! Te Deums were sung in all the churches.

The Russian Japan squadron of 4 ships was at Nangasaki, Japan, at the last accounts, and was well received.

A line of defence was being thrown around Copenhagen to the seaward, in anticipation of hostilities in the Baltic next spring.

The Paris correspondent of the London *Morning Chronicle* states that England and France are fully agreed upon efficient measures to coerce Russia. Instructions had been given to the Admirals to stop all Russian ships cruising in the Black Sea, and force them to return to Sebastopol, and they will not be allowed to leave again till the conclusion of peace.

A statement that the French Envoy at Constantinople had objected to the English Admiral's desire to intercept the Russian fleet on its return from Sinope, causes much discussion in Paris.

There were rumors of engagements on the Danube, but nothing reliable.

The scarcity of grain in France will be most severely felt during the last of February.

NEW YORK, JAN. 5.—The schr. H. N. Gambrill, of Baltimore, arrived here to-night from Loango, South Africa, in charge of Lieut. De Camp, having been captured by the frigate Constitution as a slaver.

The ship Marion sailed for Benguela, Nov. 3d, all well. The Constitution was to sail for St. Helena in a few days. The brig Perry was at Monrovia.

NEW ORLEANS, JAN. 4.—The steamer Louisiana arrived here to-day, with Texas dates to to 29th.

The newly elected Governor had been inaugurated, and the Governor had signed the Pacific Railroad bill, passed by the Legislature.

Steamer San Francisco in Danger.

HALIFAX, JAN. 5.—The brigantine Maria arrived this morning from Liverpool. She reports that on the 26th ult. she fell in with steamer San Francisco, from New York for San Francisco round the Horn, lat. 38, 20, long. 69. Decks were swept, boats gone, and the steamer apparently completely disabled. She attempted, but could not render her any assistance, a heavy gale blowing at the time, during which the steamer drifted out of sight. The steamer had Government troops aboard.

[This steamer, it will be recollected, sailed on the morning of the 22d from New York for San Francisco, with the 3d regiment of the United States army on board, numbering officers and men 513, which, together with passengers and crew, numbered about 700. The steamer was new, and the engines on a new model, built in the strongest manner. She was provisioned for six months, with upwards of 30,000 gallons of water and a distilling apparatus, which is capable of producing any quantity of pure water needed on board.

We understand that immediately on the receipt of the intelligence, last evening, of the probable loss of the steamer San Francisco, Gen. Jesup saw Secretary Guthrie, who telegraphed immediately to New York, Wilmington, Del., and Charleston, for the revenue cutters disengaged to cruise off the Capes, where the San Francisco was last seen.

As the San Francisco is not a mail steamer, the Navy Department have no authority to order a vessel to cruise for her, except at the instance of the War Department. When called upon for a steamer, it was found there was none in any of our ports that could be sent.

We understand that news has been received in this city to-day from New York, from the firm of Aspinwall & Co., that the company and underwriters feel confident that the steamer will ride out the gale, and entertain no fears of her safety.

Many in our community feel an interest in her safety, having relatives on board.]

The Steamer San Francisco.

Relief has been sent to this steamer, from every source available to the Navy Department.

She was supplied with three independent pumps, in addition to those attached to the engine, besides others that could be worked by hand, and as she was very strongly built, there is no doubt that, with the assistance of the large number on board, she would easily be kept free of what water she might make, until assistance arrived. This would most probably be immediately after the cessation of the gale, as she lay in the direct track of vessels trading to the Southern ports and West Indies.

If not fallen in with, Captain Watkins would most probably endeavor, by the aid of jury masts, to make for the Bermudas, where it is likely we shall next hear of her.

A distinguished naval officer addresses encouraging words to the Baltimore *Sun.* He says:

Supposing all these reported accidents to have happened, they are not, in themselves, barriers to the preservation of the vessel and those on board.

If the vessel has been dismasted, jury masts will be rigged out of the spare spars which every vessel carries to meet similar emergencies. Though the progress of the ship would be necessarily slow under jury masts, the northerly winds now prevailing on our coast would take her to the southward in fair weather, and a fair wind to the West Indies.

The engines, if disabled, may have been subsequently repaired, in which case, from my personal knowledge of the resources and energy of Capt. Watkins, it is possible he has gone on to Rio de Janeiro—but most probably he is returning to New York under steam.

Capt. W. is the ablest man in his vocation I know. He has been in worse scrapes at sea than the one recently reported, without losing his vessel or any one on board.

Destructive Fire at Portland.

PORTLAND, JAN. 9.—The custom-house at this place was entirely destroyed by fire this morning. It was occupied besides by the Post Office, Reading Room, Atlantic Bank, United States Court, Natural History Society, Bailey's book store, and other tenants. Everything in the post office was saved; but the contents of the custom house, the splendid collection of the Natural History Society, Judge Ware's valuable library, the Reading Room and Court Rooms, were entirely destroyed. The loss is heavy, and falls chiefly on the Government. The building was formerly the Exchange, and was sold to the Government for $129,000.

Steamers George Law and Star of the West.

NEW YORK, JAN. 9, 11 A. M.—The steamers George Law and Star of the West arrived here this morning, with 700 passengers, and $2,000,000 gold on freight, besides a large amount in the hands of the passengers.

Nothing later of a political nature than what was received *via* New Orleans, per Daniel Webster and the El Dorado. Nothing later of steamer San Francisco.

Burning of the La Farge Hotel and Metropolitan Hall.

NEW YORK, Jan. 8.—At 1 o'clock this morning, flames were seen issuing from Metopolitan Hall, and in the course of two hours that magnificent building and the new marble-fronted hotel, known as the La Farge Hotel, were in ruins. The building is estimated to have cost $600,000.

NEW YORK, JAN. 9.—Total loss by the fire yesterday, $500,000. Amount insured, a quarter of a million of dollars.

New York Markets.

NEW YORK, JAN. 9.—Flour advanced. Western, at $7.62½ to 7.68¾. Southern, at 7.62½—sales of 8,000 barrels. Wheat—sales of six thousand bushels. Ohio white, at $1.79. Corn—white, from 79 to 81 cents; yellow, at 84 cents—8,000 bushels sold. Stocks depressed. Cotton dull.

Baltimore Markets.

BALTIMORE, JAN. 9, 12 M.—Flour—sales of 1,000 barrels of Howard Street and Baltimore City Mills, at $7.12½. Wheat—prime wheat, $1.73; red, from $1.60 to $1.63—sales of 2,000 bushels. Corn—sales of white, from good to prime, at 63 a 65 cents; yellow, 68 a 69 cents. No change in other articles usually spoken of in the markets.

BALTIMORE, JAN. 9, 3 P. M.—Sales of 15,000 barrels of Howard Street flour, at $7.12½.

FREE DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

READING, PA., *Dec.* 30, 1853.

A general meeting of the Committee will be held at Harrisburg, on the 26th and 27th of January, 1854. The meeting will first convene at Col. Sanders's "Washington House," Market Square, on *Thursday*, the 26th, at 7 o'clock, P. M. Members of the Committee, on their arrival, will please call upon M. T. Hughson, Treasurer of the Committee, at the above, named house, present to him the regular notification sent to each member, and register their names and lodgings in Harrisburg.

C. P. JONES,
Secretary of the Committee.

☞ All the Free Democratic papers in Pennsylvania please copy.

A REFORMATORY PAPER FOR CHILDREN.
THE JUVENILE INSTRUCTOR.
Edited by Uncle Lucius, Syracuse, N. Y.

THE want of a paper for children, of a reformatory character, has long been felt. The juvenile papers of our land do not meet the demands of the community. They please the eye and interest the reader, but do not instruct and enlighten the mind with reference to the great sins of the day. Reformers! The Juvenile Instructor is intended to meet this demand. It is the paper for children—for Sabbath schools and Day schools.

The Instructor is published every other week, or twenty-six numbers per year. A new volume commences January 5, 1854. A Corresponding Editor has been secured. Her writings for children are already known and admired by many. Illustrations will be given in every number. No reasonable expense will be spared to make it attractive. Five thousand subscribers were added last year.

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LUCIUS C. MATLACK, Syracuse, N. Y.

P. S. Specimen numbers sent, free of charge.
Jan. 7—2m

ARNOLD'S, 84 STRAND, LONDON.

I HEREBY constitute Mr. Simon Willard, No. 9 Congress street, Boston, sole agent for the sale of my Watches in the United States of America.

April 15, 1853. CHARLES FRODSHAM.

The undersigned, having been appointed sole Agent in the United States for the sale of Charles Frodsham's Improved Timekeepers, would respectfully call public attention to his extensive and valuable stock of Compensated Chronometer Watches, made by Charles Frodsham, and styled his "New Series." In the Watches of the new series, Mr. Frodsham has succeeded—by a more perfect method of compensation, a more correct adjustment in isochronism, and an entirely new and peculiar construction of the train, by which more power is obtained without increase of size—in producing timekeepers of wonderful and unrivalled accuracy. The great importance of the improved Watches is a perfect regularity of time, under every variety of climate, motion, and position. So perfect are the adjustments, that the most violent exercise—such as horseback riding, jumping, &c.—produces on them no sensible effect. They are therefore peculiarly adapted to railroad purposes.

The scientific French critic, Mons. Borsendorf, in his review of the Great London Exhibition of 1851, styles the contribution of Mr. Charles Frodsham as "bearing the stamp of peculiar merit, and as being the flower of the English school."

The British Government have awarded Messrs. Arnold and Charles Frodsham the sum of £3,170, for the excellence of the *principle* of their timekeepers.

One of Mr. Frodsham's correspondents writes as follows:

LONDON, *April* 26, 1852.

SIR: I have much pleasure in giving an account of the Gold Compensation Lever Watch, No. 3,325, you have made for me, and in which I expressly stipulated that it should maintain a uniform rate of going under every variety of motion and climate. This it has done in a most remarkable manner; its rate of going for the first six months was five seconds per month, and in the next six months it changed its rate a little faster, viz: eight seconds per month, and at the end of 365 days it was found to be fast of Greenwich mean time one minute and fifteen seconds. Though I was not led by any previous promise to expect such performance, yet I believe it is only the usual character of your improved watches, which you term your "new series."

I remain, sir, yours, respectfully,
THOMAS BARTLETT.
To Mr. Charles Frodsham.

The undersigned has received the following:

BOSTON, *October* 5, 1853.

SIR: I herewith give you an account of the remarkable performance of the watch I purchased of you, made by Charles Frodsham, No. 7,014. Its total variation for 17 months, by weekly observations, was but one minute and fifty-five seconds.

Yours, respectfully, BILLINGS BRIGGS.
To Mr. Simon Willard.

BOSTON, *September* 3, 1853.

The Compensated Lever Watch I purchased of you, made by Charles Frodsham, of London, No. 7,300, has varied but thirty seconds from mean time in six months, by actual daily comparison with your regulator. Yours, &c., ALVIN ADAMS.
Mr. Simon Willard.

The undersigned is permitted to refer to the following gentlemen, who, among many others, have proved the excellence of Frodsham's Watches as timekeepers:

Enoch Train, Esq. Wm. Whiting, Esq.
E. C. Bates, Esq. Geo. M. Thacher, Esq.
F. W. Thayer, Esq. David Dyer, Esq.
E. F. Osborne, Esq., } Sandusky,
Eben. Lane, Esq., } Ohio.

The subscriber would respectfully state that the above Watches are designed and executed by Mr. Frodsham and himself, especially to meet the demands of the American public in the great essential of perfect time, and that in this and in external beauty they stand unrivalled.

All orders addressed to the undersigned will receive immediate attention. SIMON WILLARD,
Jan. 5. No. 9 Congress street, Boston.

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☞ Sets of the work, in 9 volumes, for the last three years, neatly bound, lettered, and numbered, may be had at the office of publication, and sent to any part of the country. Jan. 7.

DISSOLUTION OF LIMITED CO-PARTNERSHIP.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Limited Co-Partnership now existing between the subscribers, under the firm of Derby & Miller, Auburn, and Derby, Orton, & Mulligan, Buffalo, will be dissolved and cease on and after the 1st day of February, 1854; and that after that date, Norman C. Miller, of Auburn, and Eugene Mulligan, of Buffalo, each, and they alone, are authorized to sign the names of the firm in the liquidation of the co-partnership business.

Dated at Auburn and Buffalo, Dec. 1, 1853. } JAMES C. DERBY,
ELLIOT G. STORKE, NORMAN C. MILLER,
EDWARD MUNSON, WILLIAM ORTON,
CHARLES F. COFFIN, EUGENE MULLIGAN,
Special Partners. General Partners.

BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENT.

J. C. Derby will establish himself at No. 8 Park Place, New York, as Publisher upon his own account, and will keep on sale the publications of Messrs. Phillips, Sampson, & Co., of Boston, and Miller, Orton, & Mulligan, of Auburn and Buffalo.

The other members of the firm, being purchasers of the entire list of Publications, Plates, Copyrights, Stock, &c., will form a Limited Co-Partnership, of which due legal notice will be given, and continue the business as Publishers and General Booksellers, with increased facilities, under the firm of

MILLER, ORTON, & MULLIGAN,
December 31, 1853. At Auburn & Buffalo.
Jan. 6—1d1w

BOOK and Pamphlet Printing executed by BUELL & BLANCHARD, Sixth street, Washington.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

EDUCATION IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

The South are waking up to the importance of establishing a general system of common-school education, and we are pleased to note that a proposition for this purpose has been introduced into the South Carolina Legislature. Gov. Manning, in his recent message, thus introduced the subject to their notice:

"Undoubtedly the most important measure which I shall bring to your consideration, is the reformation of the present system of public instruction in the State. If, as has been frequently stated, education is the cheap defence of nations, and the permanence of republican institutions depends upon the enlightenment of their citizens, you have but little security for the prosperity and happiness you now enjoy. Education has been provided by the Legislature but for one class of the citizens of the State, which is the wealthy class. For the middle and poorer classes of society it has done nothing, since no organized system has been adopted for that purpose. You have appropriated seventy-five thousand dollars annually to free schools, but, under the present mode of applying it, that liberality is really the profusion of the prodigal, rather than the judicious generosity which confers real benefit. The few who are educated at public expense in those excellent and truly useful institutions, the Arsenal and Citadel Academies, form almost the only exception to the truth of this remark. Ten years ago, twenty thousand adults, besides children, were unable to read or write in South Carolina. Has our free-school system dispelled any of this ignorance? Are there not any reasonable fears to be entertained that the number has increased since that period? Are generations to come and go, and still see no improvement in the education of the humble portion of your population? If no change is effected, with increasing commerce, with 1,300 miles of railroad, with your machinery, with your unimproved lands, who are to be your merchants, engineers, machinists, and mechanics, and your farmers."

Mr. Tucker, the author of the bill for the improvement of the free-school system, made a speech which is warmly commended. Mr. Sullivan thought Mr. Tucker had suggested in his plan "the introducing of foreign (Northern) systems into the State, against which he earnestly protested." The subject was finally laid on the table.

The Carolina *Spartan* says:

"We are for educating the masses, and in favor of the State of South Carolina paying her money for it, upon a system which shall extend the privilege to all. No other system will suit us—no other will answer the purpose."

Some excitement was manifested by the mechanics in South Carolina by some derogatory remarks in an address recently delivered in the S. C. College, by Wm. B. Taber, Esq., editor of the Charleston *Mercury*. The *Patriot* says:

"He took the ground, boldly, that laboring classes had no right to be educated; that the poor man had to work; and it was useless for him to learn to read and write; that a little education made the people vicious and idle. He opposed the common schools, and denounced them as mischievous. He deprecated demagoguism, and urged conservatism, whilst urging the most claptrap arguments in favor of the aristocratic few, who were to be educated, and who were to govern the rest of mankind in their ignorance and poverty!

"I heard Mr. Taber's graduating speech some years ago, and was delighted with it. I have been on terms of kindness with him ever since, but I must confess that never before has it fallen to my lot (and I say it with sorrow) to listen to such a farrago of insolence, ignorance, and tyranny, as were embodied in his speech. It was worthy of the dark ages of Europe, and the iron rule of a feudal baron. The whole speech was not only against human liberty, but in opposition to republicanism, to civilization, and the spirit of the age. In order to show the mischief of education among the masses, he appealed to the Northern States! Surely, Mr. Taber has never been in the Northern States, and has adopted all the slang of those who go North every summer to spend their money and enjoy the richness of the North, and return home affecting to despise the North. They have more wealth in the Northern States, more education, more literature, more republicanism, and more religion, with much greater improvement and progress in everything, than we have at the South, Mr. Taber to the contrary notwithstanding. And, in my opinion, it is owing mainly to the education of the people."

This notice of Mr. Taber's address called forth a note from him to the editor of the *Patriot*, characterising his remarks as an assault, "highly offensive and unjustifiable." The editor of the *Patriot* replied, that the "address was public, and contained principles and arguments extremely objectionable to all my [his] notions on the subject of education and its consequences," and that his assault was on Mr. T.'s arguments and conclusions, and not on him personally. Whereupon Mr. Taber felt constrained to challenge the editor of the *Patriot* to fight a duel, which, as he had said nothing impugning Mr. T.'s "honor or character as a gentleman," Mr. Perry declined.

Mr. Taber subsequently published a card, in which he states that a portion of his address was delivered without notes, "that he made the Athenian Democracy and the universal enlightenment which prevailed among the whole body of the citizens, the basis of all his remarks, and distinctly recognised the fact that the education of the people was essential to republicanism. He holds no such opinion as that the State should educate a particular class, to the exclusion of others; but he believes it to be especially the duty of free government to instruct the citizen, simply because he is a citizen, irrespective of his social position. His comments upon the common-school system were not directed against popular education, but simply against the New England system, which he believes to be faulty, in the hope that his poor efforts might contribute to a thorough examination of the subject, so that our State, in adopting a system for her sons, might select what was good, and avoid what was evil."

All this indicates progress in the right direction. If it be true, as the New Orleans *Crescent* asserts, that South Carolina "exports her two great staples, cotton and political science, and consumes less of either than other people," we may conclude that a better day is dawning for the masses of her people, and that general intelligence, prosperity, and happiness, will some day be the portion of all within her borders.

A Life Boat.—We are informed, that when the revenue cutter Hamilton was driven ashore on Folly Island, near Charleston, the officers and crew took to two boats. The long boat and its occupants have never been heard from since. Francis's Corrugated Metallic Boat was found with one man in it, (James Hogan) who had lashed himself to it. Had his companions used the same precaution, they would have been saved. Had both boats been of this kind, and had a little precaution been exercised by all, not a life would have been lost. This boat cannot subdue a tempestuous sea, nor has it intelligence, and the power to embrace and hold on to its passengers, in defiance of the mountainous waves; but in all other respects it is equal to its uses. It cannot be swamped, while whole, and extraordinary violence must be applied to cripple it. We do not know Mr. Francis, but we hold in high estimation his benevolent invention.

Ninety-one D. D.'s and fifty-one LL. D.'s have been made by various colleges in the United States during the past year.
Exchange paper.

Although they are of little worth, the passion for titles is probably as strong in the United States as in any country beneath the sun, the Southern portions of this continent always excepted. It is a great national defect, and the sooner we can remedy it the better; but we must, of course, first become convinced of its existence.

A gentleman, who not long ago travelled through our Western States, informed us that he was somewhat astonished at the rude and primitive characteristics of a personage who was introduced to him as the "Rev. Doctor ——;" but his astonishment soon abated on his learning that this personage had taken the long-desired royal road to both medicine and divinity, and had accepted from his village friends the honorary titles of both professions, the blending of which had so exalted him in the conceptions of a stranger, who was aware that there were in the world doctors of divinity as well as of medicine!

HONORS TO GENERAL WOOL.

We find in the York *Daily Times* of the 2d, a full report of the proceedings at the complimentary dinner given to Major Gen. John E. Wool, at Troy, on Saturday last, by his fellow citizens, on the eve of his departure for California, the theatre of his future service for a few years. The banquet was given at the Troy House, and is represented to have been of surpassing magnificence. The officers were: *President*—Hon. David Buel. *Vice Presidents*—Jonas E. Hart, Hon. Elias Plum, Hon. Amos K. Hadley, Hon. John A. Millard, Esq. The President delivered the address of welcome in eloquent terms. "The relations," he said, "which exist between the citizens of Troy and their respected guest, are of long duration and of a sacred character. It was here that he passed the years of boyhood and youth, and here he formed the most endearing of earthly relations." In this address he briefly reviewed the leading incidents in the life of General W.

Hon. A. K. Hadley, singularly enough, delivered a speech of like tenor, in response to a sentiment in honor of the President of the United States.

In response to the 2d regular toast—"Our honored Guest"—General Wool replied:

Mr. President, Friends and Fellow-Citizens: I rise to respond to the eloquent address and sentiment just delivered, with a sad heart and feelings deeply oppressed, with friends and neighbors assembled, not to greet me as a war-worn veteran returning from the field of battle, but to express their regret because of my expected departure to a far distant land, and to offer renewed assurances of personal regard, and to say farewell. To part with my Trojan friends at any time, and for however short a period, has ever been to me a source of regret; but the very thought of leaving them at this time, and under these circumstances, oppresses and almost overwhelms me.

It is now fifty years since I first came to your city, a small boy, without money and without friends to assist me; and it is more than forty years since I entered the army of the United States. At the latter period, your beautiful city contained, I believe, about 6,000 inhabitants; at this time, its population cannot be far from 35,000 or 40,000. During its advancement and prosperity, if I have grown with its growth, and strengthened with its strength, it must, at least in some degree, be ascribed to the approving voice of its citizens, which has ever hovered over me. Whether traversing the thick forests of Maine, the savage wilds of the West, the frozen regions of the North, the burning sands of the South, or in battle on the heights of Queenstown, at Plattsburg, or at Buena Vista, their cheering and encouraging approbation has never failed to stimulate me to greater efforts to sustain the honor, the interest, and the glory of my country. [Applause.] I can never forget, that ere the echoes of the thunder of the battle of Buena Vista had ceased, I received in advance, with that of my native State, their assurance of confidence. Nor can I forget in 1848, when I returned, after the campaign in Mexico, their reception in the city of New York by a hundred citizens and the Citizens Corps, who escorted me to this city, where thousands of the inhabitants awaited to greet and conduct me with shouts of welcome to my cherished home. [Renewed applause.] Nor can the reception be forgotten which followed a few days after, when the citizens and military corps of this city and of the county, and from other parts of the State, assembled to witness the presentation of that precious gift with which the citizens honored me. These manifestations of their good opinion are engraven on my heart never to be effaced. With so much kindness, hospitality, and generosity, it cannot be thought strange or extraordinary, that I regret, deeply regret, again to be separated from such friends and such citizens. I, however, have had but one rule for my guidance since I have held a commission in the army of the United States; and that is, obey cheerfully the commands of those appointed over me, and to go where duty calls. [Loud applause.]

It is true, I am to be relieved of the command of the Eastern Department and assigned to that of the Pacific, which comprises California and Oregon. Whether considered in relation to climate, soil, or mineral wealth, no part of the United States presents a greater field for enterprise, and with the indomitable courage and perseverance of the inhabitants, must soon become, if it is not already, a formidable part of the Union, and from its commanding position exert a controlling influence over the inhabitants of the islands and shores of the Pacific ocean. Having contributed, as I believe, in some degree to the acquisition to our Union of a large portion of the Pacific department, I cannot but take a deep interest in its welfare. Possessing, therefore, feelings of paternity towards that interesting section of our country, I shall go as desired, without hesitation, and with a determination to do all in my power to promote the success, prosperity, and happiness of the people. [Applause.] Lest, however, in separating from you at my time of life, and going so far from all that I hold most dear, the motives which prompt designation for the important command should be misunderstood and misconstrued, it is due to our illustrious President and Secretary of War to say, that in presenting the subject to me, no officer could have been treated with greater consideration, delicacy, and kindness. [Renewed applause.] So much so, no matter what the sacrifice may be, I could not have said less than I did, that I would go with pleasure, and with the assurance and determination that neither the President or the people of the country should have cause to complain of my conduct whilst commander of the Pacific department. [Applause.] It is also due to the President, as well as the Secretary of War, to say, that I believe, if I had intimated the slightest objections to the command, they would not have urged it upon me.

I am aware that the duty will be one of hardship. It cannot be otherwise; the country being in a great measure destitute of the improvements and conveniences which make travelling in other parts of the Union a pleasure. If I should be required, however, to traverse on horseback the barrens and mountains of California and Oregon, I shall do no more than what I have performed again and again in other parts of the United States, and but recently in Mexico. [Great applause.] My hand to the plough, I will not look back, but move forward until the object of my mission is accomplished, when I have no doubt I shall be permitted to return, and again, I trust, without taint or loss of character, enjoy the pleasure of your society and friendship. [Continued applause.]

During my absence, be assured that wherever I may be, either in the North, the South, the East, or the West, your welfare, your prosperity, and your happiness, will be mine. With the most heartfelt acknowledgments for the past as well as the present honors conferred on me, I bid you adieu.

This speech was followed with immense applause.

Eloquent speeches were also made by George Goold, Esq., Captain H. L. Shields, Gen. John P. Veile, Martin J. Townsend, Esq., Hon. Russell Gage, Mr. Brigham, of the "Troy Whig," and Samuel Storer, Esq. Letters were read from General H. H. Ross, John A. Dix, E. N. Pratt, Governor Seymour, Gen. Winfield Scott, Hon. Millin S. Latham, and Ex-Chancellor Walworth. General Scott said:

"But that I have declined all invitations to public entertainments, I should be happy to be present at the highly-merited honor you are about to bestow on my distinguished brother officer in two wars and for a period of more than forty years."

MEXICO AND LOWER CALIFORNIA.

The morning papers of to-day contain extracts from city of Mexico papers to the 17th of December.

The most important item of intelligence is said to be "the acceptance of the act of Guadalajara by Santa Anna"—the meaning of which is represented to be, "that he will continue invested with his present powers as long as he shall judge necessary, that he shall have power to elect his successor, and that the President shall in future bear the title of Most Serene Highness."

We, however, can see nothing either novel or important in this. Our limited acquaintance with that dignitary has always been sufficient to convince us that he would not refuse such conditions as these; and that, should he demand them in a sufficiently imperious manner, we have never doubted the assent of the Mexican people to the demand.

The *Diario Official* contains the announcement that the President, desirous of putting an end to the public curiosity on the subject of the boundary with the United States, has appointed a special commission, composed of Srs. Diaz de Bonilla, Salazar Harreguy, and Gen. Palacio, to treat with our Minister, Mr. Gadsden, and settle this delicate question. Sr. Bonilla is invested for this purpose with full and plenipotentiary powers, and the conferences have already commenced.

The Sonora incursion has agitated the nation, and an array of resistance is being made. From the San Diego (California) *Herald*, of the 3d of December, is quoted a proclamation "to the people of the United States" of one Wm. Walker, who styles himself "President of Lower California." We deem it proper to place before our readers this important document *in extenso:*

To the People of the United States:

In declaring the Republic of Lower California free, sovereign, and independent, I deem it proper to give the people of the United States the reasons for the step I have taken.

It is due to the nationality which has most jealously guarded the independence of the American States to declare why another representative is created on the immediate confines of the Union.

The Mexican Government has for a long time failed to perform its duties to the province of Lower California. Cut off as the territory was, by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, from all direct communication with the rest of Mexico, the central authorities have manifested little or no interest in the affairs of the California peninsula. The geographical position of the provinces is such as to make it certainly separate and distinct in its interest from the other portion of the Mexican Republic. But the moral and social ties which bound it to Mexico have been even weaker and more deplorable than the physical. Hence, to develope the resources of Lower California, and to effect a proper social organization therein, it was necessary to make it independent.

The mineral and pastoral wealth of Lower California is naturally very great; but to properly develope it, there must be good Government and sure protection to labor and property. Mexico is unable to furnish these requisites for the growth and prosperity of the peninsula. The territory, under Mexican rule, would forever remain wild, half savage, and uncultivated, covered with an indolent and half civilized people desirous of keeping all foreigners from entering the limits of the State.

When the people of a territory fail almost entirely to develope the resources that nature has placed at their command, the interest of civilization requires others to go in and possess the land. They cannot, nor should they be allowed to play the "dog in the manger," and keep others from possessing what they have failed to occupy and appropriate.

Mexico has not performed any of the ordinary duties of Government towards the people of Lower California. She has established no sure and ready means of communication for the people among them or the rest of the world, nor has she ever undertaken to protect them from the wandering robbers who infest the territory. Thus abandoning the peninsula, and leaving it as it was, "a waif on the waters." Mexico cannot complain if others take it and make it valuable.

On such considerations have I and my companions in arms acted in the course we have pursued. And for the success of our enterprise, we put our trust in Him who controls the destinies of nations, and guides them in the ways of improvement and progress.

Wm. Walker,
President of Lower California.

The acts of Mr. Walker and his "companions in arms" are too important to be lightly regarded. Were it otherwise, we might greatly enjoy the humor of this formal annunciation of the birth of a nation, together with the astute and profound moral considerations that have prompted Mr. Walker and his "companions in arms" to drive the dog out of the manger, and to rescue the "waif on the waters." We would *not*, however, relish the adoption of the morality of Mr. Walker by such idle and out-at-elbows gentlemen, as are occasionally seen prowling about our cities and adjacent highways. But he is no doubt correct in his estimate of the "mineral and pastoral wealth of Lower California," and it may be profitable for the people of the United States, whom he addresses, to apply themselves to the study of the geography of Lower California, and to an examination of the authority under which title deeds may there be held. One way or other, the movements of Mr. Walker and his companions in arms will undoubtedly prove of practical importance to our Government and people.

A Relic of a Past age.—There is now residing on the place of J. Dudley Davis, Esq., in Scott county, Ky., a free woman of color, whose age, from reliable sources, is 120 years. She was grown at the time of Braddock's defeat, 1755, which she well remembers. She frequently washed the clothes of the "Father of his Country" prior to her emigrating from the "Old Dominion" to this State.

It may gratify the curiosity of the curious to see this relic of the 18th century, and one whose age equals that of the great lawgiver of Israel, though, unlike him, her eyesight is dim, and her natural force abated.—*Frankfort Commonwealth.*

The Erie Railroad Troubles.—The New York *Daily Times* thus concisely sets forth the grounds of the recent conflicts at Erie, which may be received as the New York statement of the case:

"The Borough of Erie desires that the railroad running through its limits shall be compelled to change cars there, and the way determined upon for effecting this object is to insist that the track shall be of a different width east and west of that city. They secured the passage through the Pennsylvania Legislature of a law requiring that difference in gauge. So far, their object was secured by a State law. That law, however, has been repealed, and the railroads are now at liberty to lay down tracks of such a width as they may deem fit. The State is bound to protect them in so doing. The city of Erie, however, interposes its municipal authority, and declares, that unless the railroad will change its gauge at that point, it shall be considered a nuisance, and as such not permitted to exist within the city limits. The United States Court has issued an injunction forbidding any interference with the road east of that city. That injunction has been declared null and void by a Justice of the Peace in Erie county, and in pursuance of that decision the mob of Erie have destroyed the track. In other words, a Justice Court of Erie deliberately nullifies the decision of the Court of the United States, and assumes to dictate the terms upon which a railroad authorized and protected by the law of the State shall pass through the city limits."

ONE WEEK LATER FROM EUROPE.

ARRIVAL OF THE CANADA.

Halifax, January 4.—The steamer Canada has arrived, bringing dates th the 24th December, from Liverpool, seven days later than previous advices.

Flour market dull, but prices advanced slightly. Flour advanced 6d.; wheat 2d.; corn 1s. per quarter. Cotton unchanged. Sales of the week, 45,000 bales. Consols declined slightly. London money market unchanged. Provisions dull and lower.

[From the Sun of this morning.]

DETAILS OF FOREIGN NEWS.

Dates had been received by telegraph from Shanghai to Nov. 2d, and Calcutta to Nov. 20th. Affairs in Burmah were more satisfactory.

Mr. Soulé had fought a duel with the Marquis of Turgot, the French Minister, and young Soule had also fought with the Duke of Alba. Nobody damaged.

Severe weather had been experienced along the Irish coast, and many vessels had been wrecked.

The Turks say that Russia has induced Persia to declare war against Turkey, and to place 30,000 troops at the Czar's disposal, by a promise to remit the debt due by Persia to Russia, and to restore the territory in dispute between them.

Turkey had forbidden the exportation of grain.

The allied fleets had at last entered the Black Sea, leaving three ships of each squadron to guard Constantinople. Their supposed destination was the great Russian Naval Depot of Sebastopol. The Czar having frequently declared that the entry of the fleets into the Black Sea would be equivalent to a declaration of war, the withdrawal of the Russian ministers from London and Paris was immediately looked for.

Further skirmishing had occurred along the Danube. The Russians attacked Kalafat on the 4th, but were repulsed after great carnage.

On the 13th, two Russian steamers, with gun boats, attacked Matschinie.

An insurrection had taken place at Crimea, in favor of Turkey. The provinces of Bessarabia, Kheran, and Tauris, had been put under martial law by the Russians.

The Turkish army had crossed the Georgian frontiers, and marched upon Tiflis. They were welcomed everywhere by the Georgians.

The Turkish forces were occupying Erivan, which was abandoned by the Russians on their approach.

The report of the Turkish defeat at Alhalzik was doubted, although the battle fought there on the 26th was accompanied with very considerable slaughter.

The rupture between Persia and England happened anterior to the declaration of war by Persia against Turkey, occasioned by an insult to the British embassy.

The Russian Government has ordered that all foreign merchant ships going into the Ottoman ports of the Black Sea, carrying munitions of war, shall be seized, although under neutral flags.

The English Cabinet met on the 23d. Sir George Gray had declined the offer of the Home Secretaryship.

It was reported that Lord Palmerston had been invited to resume the office, in consequence of Lord Clarendon threatening to resign.

Reports that the sincerity of the Emperor of France in the Turkish alliance was distrusted in England, caused great indignation.

The Chinese insurgents keep firm possession of Shanghai. The rebels had been defeated by the Imperialists at Amoy.

MARINE INTELLIGENCE.

DISASTERS BY THE STORM IN THE EAST.

Boston, *December* 31, 1853.

The barque *Maryland*, from Baltimore, is ashore inside the Glades, with five feet of water in her hold, and foremast cut away.

Schooner *Mary E. Pierce*, from Wilmington, N. C., is high up on Scituate beach, but may be got off after discharging.

Captain Smith, of the *Mary E. Pierce*, states that he came round Cape Cod with about 75 sail, and thinks most of them have gone ashore.

Five schooners and one brig, additional to those named, are ashore near Duxbury.

Providence, *December* 30, 1853.

The storm has been very severe in this vicinity. We have received no mail from Boston or New York for two days. The Boston and Stonington roads are blocked up with snow, and the trains are endeavoring to force their way through.

Providence, *December*, 31, 1853.

We have received the following despatch of marine disasters from Newport:

Brig *Elizabeth*, from Providence for Wilmington, N. C., in ballast, is ashore on the Breakwater. Damage unknown.

Schooner *Emma* of Bremen, Smith, from Philadelphia for Boston, with coal, went ashore near Beaver Tail, and has bilged.

Schooner *Homer*, of Boston, is ashore near Fort Adams, with both masts cut away.

Schooner *Telegraph*, from Boston for Tangier, is badly ashore in the cove near Fort Adams.

Schr. *Arctic*, Moulton, from Baltimore, of and from Newburyport, with oak plank, dragged ashore in the Inner Harbor.

Schr. *Flotilla*, for Barnstable from Baltimore, in ballast, parted her chains, and went ashore in Brenton's Cove.

Boston, *January* 1, 1854.

The steamer *City of New York*, Mathews, from Philadelphia, arrived to-day, in 72 hours. Captain M. reports that the ship Independence, which sailed hence for Valparaiso, is anchored in the vicinity of Cape Cod, with all her masts cut away. The City of New York will discharge part of her cargo and go down to tow her up. Captain Mathews also reports that he saw twenty-one vessels, mostly schooners, ashore back of Cape Cod, names unknown.

The following additional reports have come to hand: The barque Ida, from Philadelphia, is ashore on Sandy Neck, bilged. The Ida had on board the crew of schooner Linnet, of Rockland, ashore on Block island. The schooner Emma C., supposed from New York, is also ashore at Sandy Neck. The schooner Commodore Kearney, supposed from New York, is ashore, and bilged. Schooner Willow, from Philadelphia, is ashore on Dennis Beach, high and dry. Barque Nashua is anchored in Chatham Harbor, with all her masts cut away. Schooner Ellen Herbert, from Philadelphia, is ashore off Chatham, and bilged. Barque Fanny Buck, from New Orleans, with a cargo of cotton, hemp, and molasses, is ashore at Race Point. Barque Elizabeth, Stout, from Matanzas, went ashore at Yarmouth on Wednesday night. Captain Stout and wife got ashore in the morning, but the latter died in his arms on the beach. Their child was lashed to the rigging, where he was frozen to death. Crew saved. Barque Sylvester, Snow, from Cuba, is ashore high and dry. The schooner Mail, from New York for Providence, is ashore at Race Point. Three men drowned, one saved. Schooner E. Bray, of Yarmouth, lost her mate and steward. Schooner Water Witch, from Florida, ashore. Lost her mate and one seaman. Schooner Wolcott, from New York, anchored, (where not stated,) with masts cut away. Brig William M. Rogers, Skinner, is ashore near Race Point, and it is supposed will be a total loss. The cargo will be partially saved. Captain Skinner reports that he saw a schooner, name unknown, go to peices—men all lost. Schooner Boston, Captain Layhold, from Halifax, is ashore, (where not stated.) Passengers, 22 in number, and crew, all saved. Brig Lily, from St. Mary's, Georgia, ashore (where not stated) high and dry.

The following schooners are also ashore, (where not stated:) Emerald, of Bristol, Me.; Caroline Richmond, from Fredericksburg; C. A. Harman, from Norfolk; Leo, of Rockland, Me.; Burgess, of New York; Hannah, John Marshall, and Frederica.

The gale at Yarmouth, Cape Cod, was terrific. The tide rose very high, doing much damage to the wharves and the property thereon.

Boston, *January* 2, 1853.

Accounts of marine disasters are still pouring in. Mariners state that the storm on Thursday last was the most severe ever experienced on the Atlantic coast. The barque Midas, from New Orleans for Boston, was hove down on her beam ends on the 27th. Her masts were cut away and she was righted, but subsequently abandoned and her crew brought here.

The barque Henrietta, from City Point for Boston, was abandoned opposite Sag Harbor, and her crew saved. The schooner Eben Sawyer, from Wilmington, N. C., for Boston, with rice and naval stores, is ashore on Plymouth Beach, and is a total loss. The schooner Philadelphia, of Jacksonville, from Savannah for Boston, is ashore on Plymouth Beach, and bilged. The schooner Anna, from Baltimore for Boston, is ashore at the same place. The schooner Francis, from Philadelphia for Boston, was abandoned in a sinking condition, and her crew brought here. The schooner Lowell, from Philadelphia, for Boston, was totally wrecked, and three of her crew lost. The brig Mary Stanton, from Boston, for Baltimore, was ashore off Eastham.

ITEMS.

The City of Washington.—Mr. John Sessford, an aged and most estimable citizen of Washington, has for many years presented to the public, through the *National Intelligencer*, on New Year's day, an accurate account of the progress of the city in its improvements for the preceding year. His statement yesterday was very satisfactory. From it we learn that there were built during the past year, as follows:

Four-story brick houses	28
Three-story brick houses	113
Two-story brick houses	50
One-story brick house	1
	192
Three-story wood houses	22
Two-story wood houses	276
One-story wood houses	4
	302
Total	494

The number of houses erected from 1819 to 1829, was 1,033; from 1829 to 1839, 895; from 1839 to 1849, 2,367; from 1849 to 1853, 1,933.

It is also stated that there are forty-eight places of worship, viz: for Methodist and Methodist Protestants, ten; Presbyterians, seven; Episcopalian, six; Baptists, five; Roman Catholic, five; Lutheran, two; Friends, Unitarians, Congregational, and Swedenborgian, one each; and also nine for colored congregations.

☞ The "*Prohibitionist*" is the title of a handsome monthly temperance paper just commenced at Albany, N. Y., under the auspices of the State Temperance Society. The price is but half a dollar, and every friend of temperance should take it. We would recommend the establishment of an agency in this city.

Mob Law at Santa Fe.—We have read in the San Antonio *Ledger* a particular account of the hanging of Gideon Scallions. He and another of Captain Skillman's mail guard got drunk, and provoked a quarrel with a party of men in a gambling-house, where Scallions was the first to draw a pistol and fire, fatally wounding, as is supposed, a citizen named Hugh N. Smith. His companion was placed in jail by the Marshal, but the mob retained possession of Scallions, and after a few hours' consideration, and watching the symptoms of the wounded man, they took him out and hung him. The whole narrative is one of depravity and horror.

☞ We perceive that the burden of the objections to the Maine Law, on the part of many of its opponents, consists in the fact that "it cannot be enforced." This is too considerate. If they will only cease their opposition, the friends of the law will make themselves responsible for at least such an administration of it as will greatly promote private virtue and happiness and the public welfare.

Baltimore, Jan. 5—The steamer Illinois, with passengers and specie, has been wrecked. She brings $1,300,000. The California news is no later than that received *via* New Orleans. Among the passengers were several Australians.

Baltimore, January 5.—A French war steamer appeared off St. Domingo on the 9th of November, and demanded of the Haytien Government $20,000, for refusing to allow French emigrants to land. All the forts on the shore were manned with cannon; but the Haytiens finally caved in, and the matter was settled amicably.

Boston, Jan. 5.—The brig Cardenas, from Curacoa for N. York, was dismasted 29th ult. Crew saved. The brig was afterwards picked up and carried to Holmes's Hole.

The barque Almeda, from New Orleans for Boston, arrived at Holmes's Hole with the crew of the schooner Arabella, abandoned off Cape Henry, in a sinking condition.

The barque Elk arrived at Newport with the crew of the Osceola, form Philad. for Boston.

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 3.—The Legislature commenced its session in this city to-day. A democratic caucus of the Senate have nominated Gen. McCahen for the Speakership. The House have nominated E. B. Chase for Speaker, which is equivalent to an election.

Both Houses of the Legislature will organize to-day, and the Governor's Message be sent in to-morrow.

Further details of the effects of the late storm at Provincetown have been received. Twenty lives, it is ascertained, have been lost. Great numbers of wrecks are drifting ashore, all the hands of which, it is supposed, have been lost. Such distress never before known.

Cape Cod schooner Kingfisher, Capt. Thomason, for Norfolk, has put into Boston in distress.

Bark Henrietta, from City Point for Boston, has been stranded near New London.

Schooner Francis, from Philadelphia for Boston, is drifting on Plymouth Beach. Crew saved.

Boston, Jan. 3—Yarmouth buildings inundated. Central Wharf, Boston, demolished. Mill Creek dam destroyed. Crew of the Barque Ida saved, but the mate of it badly hurt. The vessel is in a dangerous position.

Brig Nashua, from Philadelphia, is at anchor at Chatham Bay, with all the masts gone. There is a brig below, from Savannah, ashore at Duxbury; also, schooner Amaranth, from Fredericksburg, ashore at the same place.

Baltimore, Jan. 3, 3, *P. M.*—Ship Staffordshire, Richardson, from Liverpool, for Boston, struck on Blonde Rock, south of Sea Island, Dec. 31. First and second mates and seventeen sailors, reached safely Cape Sable. Third mate and 130 others picked up and landed at Albany. 177 persons perished in the wreck.

Albany, Jan. 3.—The Whig Caucus of the House have nominated Robert H. Pruyn for Speaker, and the Whig Caucus of the Senate, James Monroe for President.

The Legislature met at noon, and the message of the Governor was sent in.

☞ More than sixty criminals have been executed in the United States during the year 1853, and nine are now in prison under sentence of death.

Harrisburg, Jan. 4.—The Legislature organized yesterday by electing as Speakers of each House the gentlemen mentioned in the despatch of yesterday—E. B. Chase, Speaker of the House, and Gen. McCaslin, Speaker of Senate.

In the House, Mr. Ball presented a bill for extending the track of the Erie Railroad to Erie Harbor, preventing it from abuse, and to permit its continuance with the Buffalo State Line road.

In the Senate, Mr. Skinner, of Erie, read a bill regulating the gauge in Erie county.

Boston, January 4.—The Legislature met to-day. Charles E. Cook was elected President of the Senate, and Otis P. Lord, Speaker of the House.

Boston, Jan. 3.—The cargo of the ship Staffordshire (an account of the loss of which was given in yesterday's *Era*) is valued at nearly $1,000,000; and the vessel itself at about $120,000.

CALENDAR FOR 1854.

	Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.		Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
Jan.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	July	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	8	9	10	11	12	13	14		2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	15	16	17	18	19	20	21		9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	22	23	24	25	26	27	28		16	17	18	19	20	21	22
	29	30	31						23	24	25	26	27	28	29
									30	31					
Feb.	-	-	-	1	2	3	4	Aug.	-	-	1	2	3	4	5
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	26	27	28						27	28	29	30	31		
Mar.	-	-	-	1	2	3	4	Sept.	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	26	27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Apr.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	Oct.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8		8	9	10	11	12	13	14
	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	16	17	18	19	20	21	22		22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	23	24	25	26	27	28	29		29	30	31				
	30														
May	-	1	2	3	4	5	6	Nov.	-	-	-	1	2	3	4
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13		5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27		19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	28	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30		
June	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	Dec.	-	-	-	-	-	1	2
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	11	12	13	14	15	16	17		10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	18	19	20	21	22	23	24		17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	25	26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
									31						

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Jan. 2—2d2w

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